

GARY L. PRYOR  
DIRECTOR



# County of San Diego

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

5201 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE B, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1666  
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200 EAST MAIN ST. - SIXTH FLOOR  
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## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

August 19, 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of San Diego is proposing to adopt Negative Declaration(s) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the following project(s). The proposed Negative Declaration(s) can be reviewed on the World Wide Web at [http://www.sdcdplu.org/dplu/ceqa\\_public\\_review.html](http://www.sdcdplu.org/dplu/ceqa_public_review.html), at the Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU), Project Processing Counter, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, California 92123 and the public library(ies) listed below. Comments on these proposed Negative Declaration(s) must be sent to the DPLU address listed above and should reference the project number and name.

**GPA 04-010, LOG NO. 03-00-002; COUNTY TRAIL PROGRAM.** The proposed project is the adoption of the County Trails Program (CTP). The components of the CTP include a General Plan Amendment (GPA), Regional Trails Plan (RTP), Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP), and a new Trails Ordinance regulating the use of trails and amendments to various existing County ordinances regarding dedication and improvement of trails. The CTP will be utilized to develop a system of interconnected regional and community trails and pathways. These trails and pathways are intended to address an established public need for recreation and transportation, but will also provide health and quality of life benefits associated with hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding throughout the County's biologically diverse environments. The CTP involves both trail development and management on public, semi-public and private lands. The CTP has established two forms of non-motorized facilities called "Trails" and "Pathways". The County of San Diego is located in Southern California bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean, to the east by Imperial County, to the north by Orange and Riverside Counties, and to the south by Mexico. The project covers all unincorporated portions of the County of San Diego over which the County has land use jurisdiction. Comments on this proposed Negative Declaration must be received no later than September 20, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. (a 30 day public review period). This proposed Negative Declaration can also be reviewed at the following library branches: Alpine, Bonita, Borrego Springs, Campo, Casa De Oro, Crest, Descanso, Fallbrook, Jacumba, Julian, Lakeside, Pine Valley, Potrero, Ramona, Rancho San Diego, Rancho Santa Fe, Spring Valley, and Valley Center. For additional information, please contact Kristin Blackson at (858) 694-3012 or by e-mail at [kristin.blackson@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:kristin.blackson@sdcounty.ca.gov).

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**DRAFT**

## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

August 19, 2004

Project Name: County Trails Program

Project Number(s): GPA 04-010; LOG NO. 03-00-002

**This Document is Considered Draft Until it is Adopted by the Appropriate  
County of San Diego Decision-Making Body.**

This Negative Declaration is comprised of this form along with the Environmental Initial Study that includes the following:

- a. Initial Study Form
  - b. Environmental Analysis Form
1. California Environmental Quality Act Negative Declaration Findings:

Find, that this Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period, and; on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

Find, that this Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period; and that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the project applicant would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and, on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Mitigated Negative Declaration) that

there is no substantial evidence that the project as revised will have a significant effect on the environment.

2. Required Mitigation Measures:

Refer to the attached Environmental Initial Study for the rationale for requiring the following measures:

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

B-11 In the unlikely event that impacts to sensitive habitat cannot be entirely avoided due to the necessity of connecting essential trail linkages, those impacts will be mitigated according to the Attachment M of the BMO, HLP Ordinance or NCCP Guidelines. For those projects to which the BMO, HLP Ordinance or NCCP Guidelines do not apply, any significant impacts are required to be mitigated in accordance with the following table:

Habitat	Mitigation Ratio
Closed Cone Coniferous Forest	3:1
Coastal Bluff Scrub	3:1
Southern Mixed Maritime Chaparral	3:1
Mafic Southern Mixed Chaparral and Mafic Chamise Chaparral	3:1
Native Grassland	3:1
Oak Woodlands and Broad Leaved Upland Forest	3:1
Wetlands, including Vernal Pools, Alkali Marsh, Freshwater Marsh, Riparian Forests, Riparian Woodlands, and Riparian Scrubs	3:1
Maritime Succulent Scrub	3:1
Coastal Sage Scrub	2:1
Coastal Sage – Chaparral Scrub	2:1
Flat topped Buckwheat	2:1
Southern Mixed Chaparral Chamise Chaparral	0.5:1
Chamise Chaparral	0.5:1
Non-native grassland	0.5:1

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

C-1 Any impacts to significant cultural resources, must be mitigated to a level below significant according to CEQA §21083.2/§15064.5.

3. Critical Project Design Elements That Must Become Conditions of Approval:

The following project design elements were either proposed in the project application or the result of compliance with specific environmental laws and regulations and were essential in reaching the conclusions within the attached Environmental Initial Study. While the following are not technically mitigation measures, their implementation must be assured to avoid potentially significant environmental effects.

**AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Policies:**

CP 4.3:

Encourage the involvement and input of the agricultural community in matters relating to trails on or adjacent to agricultural lands and place a priority on the protection of agriculture.

CP 4.4:

Pursue mechanisms for securing trail routes across agricultural and grazing lands from willing property owners that are fair and reasonable, such as purchase, easements negotiated through incentives, or license agreements.

CP 4.6:

During trail design on or adjacent to agricultural land, notify and coordinate with the affected landowners to consider any special features that may be needed.

CP 4.10:

The County Agricultural Commissioner is authorized to close public trails for a specified period of time on or adjacent to land in active agricultural production when trail activity could be injurious to agriculture or the public. Such conditions could include, but not be limited to, quarantines, outbreaks of plant or animal disease, application of certain pesticides, or damaging infestations of insect pests.

**Implementation Strategies:**

CIS 4.2:

Recognize that some agricultural operations will need certain controls, such as authorized temporary trail closure for periods of pesticide application or other operational occurrences, in order to maintain the economic viability of their land, and solicit input from the operator as part of design considerations.

CIS 4.8:

Gates, fencing, and other physical barriers shall be used to control access and provide increased user safety when warranted by site conditions.

CIS 4.9:

If the County Agricultural Commissioner must close a trail pursuant to CP 4.10, the trail manager will give advance notification, when possible, by contacting affected local trail organizations, newspapers, or by posting the trail, and will consider potential temporary rerouting of the trail.

## **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

### **Policies**

CP 4.7:

When locating specific trail segments, prioritize locations that avoid significant impacts to sensitive environmental resources.

CP 4.8:

Establish and designate trails, whenever feasible, that correspond to existing (non-designated) trails, paths, or unpaved roadbeds that already have a disturbed tread.

### **Implementation Strategies:**

CIS 1.3:

Use of motorized vehicles on trails shall be prohibited, except for wheelchairs, maintenance, and emergency vehicles. (See Section 813.107(a) of the proposed trails ordinances.)

CIS 4.8:

Gates, fencing, and other physical barriers should be used to control access and provide increased user safety when warranted by site conditions.

### **Design Criteria:**

B-1: The appropriate resource agencies shall be contacted for consultation regarding any trail alignments that are identified as having potential significant impacts to special status species or their habitat. Prior to trail implementation, the project will be required to coordinate with the State and/or Federal Resource Agencies to ensure conformance will all applicable requirements of the 1603: Streambed Alteration Agreement permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Clean Water Act, Section 404 permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and for consultation regarding any trail alignments that are

identified as having potential significant impacts to special status species or their habitat.

- B-2: Appropriate buffers from sensitive resources shall be incorporated (1,000 feet from any golden eagle nest, 100 feet from any active raptor tree nests or 300 feet from any raptor ground nest).
- B-3: In MSCP preserve areas, equestrian, hiking, and bicycles may be allowed when in accordance with approved management plans and consistent with the County of San Diego Subarea Plan (page 1-21).
- B-4: Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- B-5: Physical and/or visual barriers shall be incorporated to protect sensitive habitats, sensitive species, and wetland habitats as follows:
- Fencing shall be used to funnel wildlife away from at-grade road crossings and toward undercrossings; fencing at wildlife undercrossings should be 10 feet high.
  - Use perimeter fencing in linkage areas where wildlife habitat widths are narrower and there is greater exposure to adverse effects.
  - Direct users to designated trails using natural vegetation, topography, signs and limited fencing.
  - Design and locate fences so that they do not impede wildlife movement.
- B-6: If the trail is adjacent to corridors, linkages or other areas utilized for wildlife movement, the trail shall be constructed so that its use would not prevent wildlife from accessing areas considered necessary to their survival; restrict wildlife from utilizing their natural movement paths; or further constrain a narrow corridor by reducing width.
- B-7: Trail lighting should not be permitted within wildlife habitat except where essential for roadways, facility use, and safety. Lighting within wildlife habitat or along its edges, should be limited to low pressure sodium sources directed away and shielded from wildlife habitat.
- B-8: Landscaping shall consist of "fire-safe" native plants along habitat edges.
- B-9: Trail grading, clearing or construction shall comply with the following distance and season requirements:

Species	Distance	Breeding Season
Coastal Cactus Wren	300' from occupied habitat	Feb. 15 - Aug. 15
California Gnatcatcher	300' from occupied habitat	Feb. 15 - Aug. 30
Least Bell's Vireo	300' from occupied habitat	Mar. 15 - Sept. 15
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	300' from occupied habitat	May 1 - Sept. 1
Tree-Nesting Raptors	300' from active nest	Feb. 15 - July 15
Ground-dwelling raptors	800' from active nest	Feb. 15 - July 15

B-10 Proposed trails shall conform to the goals and requirements as outlined in an applicable Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) or similar regional planning effort.

B-12 Trails proposed adjacent to wetlands habitats or wetland buffers shall be Type C, Primitive Trail, and these trails should not be greater than 4 feet wide.

Type C – Primitive Trails have the following characteristics that will avoid significant impacts to wetland habitats:

- Natural Surface Material
- 1% - 8% Cross Slope
- Maximum 4' trail tread width

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Implementation Strategies:**

CIS 1.7:

Recognize the important public benefit of experiencing firsthand, natural habitats, and cultural and historic resources along trail corridors by designing trails that provide appropriate interpretative features and environmental protection.

CIS 1.8:

Trail alignments should avoid archaeological and sensitive cultural resources.

CIS 1.9:

Mitigate any potential impacts to cultural resources through collection of significant artifacts, documentation and curation of the items by a professional archaeologist. The documentation of the resources may then be interpreted as part of the trail opportunity.

**CIS 1.10:**

Provide evidence to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning and Land Use that all archeological material recovered during the archeological investigation of the property, including all significance testing and grading monitoring activities, have been curated according to professional repository standards. The collections and associated records shall be transferred, including title, to an appropriate curation facility with San Diego County, to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation.

**CIS 1.11:**

Minimize negative impacts on cultural resources by avoiding grading where such resources are known to exist.

**Design Criteria:**

P-1 If feasible, the site-specific trail alignment shall be located outside of any geologic formations characterized as having either High or Moderate paleontological resource potential (Demere and Walsh, 1994). If the relocation of the trail is not feasible within the designated corridor, then grading shall not exceed 10 feet in depth into the unweathered geologic formation.

**GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

**Policy:**

**CP 4.9:**

Trails should be closed when conditions become unsafe or environmental resources are severely impacted. Such conditions could include soil erosion, flooding, fire hazard, environmental damage, or failure to follow an outlined management plan.

**Design Criterion:**

G-1 Trails shall be located outside of a hazard zone, as determined by a geotechnical survey, if there is sufficient space in the corridor to do so.

G-2 In an attempt to minimize trail impacts, trail development may include, where applicable:

- Barriers to control trail use and prevent environmental damage.
- Rerouting the trail and periodic trail closures.
- Use of existing access routes and -dirt roads.
- Avoiding removal of mature native vegetation as much as possible.



- G-3 Varying trail grades are acceptable, but excessive trail grades should be minimized, as topography permits. The optimum grade ranges described in the Trail Design Guideline Matrix (Table DG-1 of the CTMP) are advisory. Grades of 15 percent or less are preferred but may not be feasible in some locations. Where grades exceed 10 percent for an extended length, long gradual switchbacks may be used, provided there is sufficient easement width. The County may consider varying the guidelines for grade limits with the trail settings. For example, some rural or primitive trails might be steeper and narrower than typical accepted standard guidelines in order to provide a different experience for users.
- G-4 Disturbance of the soil surface shall be minimized in order to reduce erosion and associated maintenance problems.
- G-5 Erosion control is of the utmost importance in trail design, especially for soft-surface, multi-use trails. Water bars, level breaks constructed with wooden or rubber members laid perpendicular to the path of travel, may be needed to allow trails to climb through steeper terrain.
- G-6 Proper drainage of surface water is the most important factor in design, construction, and maintenance of trails. Grades along trail treads shall be held to a minimum. Occasional fluctuations in the trail grade (grade reversals) should be considered to provide variation for trail users and to facilitate proper drainage. Terrain and special conditions for the trail route alignment and surrounding areas should be considered. The potential for erosion depends on three factors: soil type, velocity of water on the trail, and the distance water travels down the trail. Alteration of any of these factors can reduce the potential for erosion of the trail surface. If distances allow, grade dips are preferred over water-bars. Existing drainage patterns of the surrounding area, such as concentrated drainage channels, must be maintained.
- G-7 The degree of cut allowed on a slope depends on the soil type, hardness, and surrounding natural resources. Ultimate cuts will be contoured to blend with the natural slopes. Berms of earth, rock or wood on the outside of the trail may be necessary. Limited terracing or building steps to avoid large-scale grading will handle steep areas. Steps must be reinforced with stone or wood.
- G-8 In order to reduce erosion and maintenance problems, disturbance of the soil surface will be kept to a minimum. Only those rocks, stumps, and roots, which interfere with safe passage, will be removed.

- G-9 Trail designs will comply with the current County Drainage Manual. Surface water shall be diverted from trails by out sloping the trail tread. Where necessary, grade dips or water bars will be used to divert water on running grades.

## **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

### **Policy**

#### **CP 4.10:**

The County Agricultural Commissioner is authorized to close public trails for a specified period of time on or adjacent to land in active agricultural production when trail activity could be injurious to agriculture or the public. Such conditions could include, but not be limited to, quarantines, outbreaks of plant or animal disease, application of certain pesticides, or damaging infestations of insect pests.

### **Implementation Strategies**

#### **CIS 4.8:**

Gates, fencing, and other physical barriers shall be used to control access and provide increased user safety when warranted by site conditions.

#### **CIS 4.9:**

If the County Agricultural Commissioner must close a trail pursuant to CP 4.10, the trail manager will give advance notification, when possible, by contacting affected local trail organizations, newspapers, or by posting the trail, and will consider potential temporary rerouting of the trail. (County Code Section 813.114)

### **Design Criteria:**

- H-1 A trail alignment shall be moved so that it does not cross the property on the Hazardous Wastes and Substances Site List.
- H-2 Final trail alignments shall include access points to allow the trails to also serve as emergency access routes (for patrol or emergency medical transport). For more remote trails, emergency access points should be located, where feasible, approximately every two miles along the trail and provide either access for ground vehicles or helicopter landing sites.
- H-3 Proposed trail alignments shall be reviewed by the local Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction (FAHJ) in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) to ensure compliance with the CTP policies, the Trails Ordinances and the Department of Parks and Recreation Fire Management Plan.

- H-4 Where there is flexibility within a trail corridor, consideration should be given to siting trail alignments that have the least flammable vegetation to aid fire suppression that avoid severe slopes and hazards for access of emergency personnel and equipment; and that can provide wider horizontal clearance adjacent to trail tread and access points to assist the movement of emergency personnel and equipment.

### **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

#### **Design Criteria:**

- WQ-1 Where trails are located near water bodies listed as impaired pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list, surface water shall be diverted from trails by directing runoff away from the water body. Where necessary, earthen berms, culverts or brow ditches shall be utilized to divert runoff and to eliminate erosion of the trail.
- WQ-2 Prior to trail implementation, the project will be required to coordinate with the Department of Public Works to ensure conformance with all applicable requirements of the County Grading and Stormwater Ordinances.
- WQ-3 Trash receptacles/service shall be provided at staging areas, where access to sanitation services is available.

### **LAND USE AND PLANNING**

#### **Policies:**

##### **CP 2.2:**

Coordinate trail planning, acquisition, development, and management with appropriate jurisdictions.

##### **CP 2.5:**

Encourage development of a Community Trails Master Plan to define community goals, policies, and implementation criteria.

##### **CP 2.6:**

Consider population-oriented numerical level of service as a principal planning element for community trails and for quantifying future trail needs, but consider other community related factors as well.

**CP 4.8:**

Establish and designate trails, whenever feasible, that correspond to existing (non-designated) trails, paths, or unpaved roadbeds that already have a disturbed tread.

**Implementation Strategies:**

**CIS 2.3:**

Use the Community Trails Master Plan as the “umbrella” document that defines Countywide community trails goals, policies, and implementation criteria. Individual community specific criteria and community trail maps are within the master plan.

**CIS 2.4:**

Community Planning and Sponsor Groups interested in developing or expanding their local trail system will work closely with the County to develop their community trail maps. The County will coordinate workshops, organize input and document the trails for approval and adoption of their maps by Board of Supervisors action in the Community Trails Master Plan.

**CIS 2.5:**

Allow for periodic updates to community-specific criteria and community trail maps and priorities. At that time, participating communities should work with the County to re-evaluate the existing trail network and determine whether modifications, additions, or deletions are needed to reflect current conditions, anticipated future needs, long-term goals, and new opportunities.

**NOISE**

**Design Criteria:**

N-1 Trails shall be located as far away from occupied dwellings, as practical.

N-2 Where desirable setbacks are not feasible, potential noise and privacy impacts shall be evaluated and reduced by use of berms, fencing, landscaping and other feasible and compatible means, if necessary.

**TRAFFIC**

**Design Criteria:**

T-1 Trails should intersect roads at approximately ninety (90) degree angles.

T-2 Where trails cross roads, they should do so at approximately ninety (90) degree angles and crossing/warning signage posted in both vehicular

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directions. If deemed necessary, the paved roadway surfaces shall be marked with a painted crosswalk and/or flashing warning lights.

### **MAINTENANCE**

- M-1 Trail maintenance should be required to keep a trail at or near its original or intended standards. Maintenance entities may include the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works and/or specific Community groups. General trail maintenance should include clearing the trail tread to allow access and provide adequate walking or riding surface, free from serious obstacles or hazards. Trail structures, such as bridges and drainage facilities, will be inspected for safety and maintained to prevent loss from erosion. Unauthorized trails will be blocked or covered with brush to camouflage them in order to discourage use, revegetate and protect sensitive habitats.
- M-2 Periodic assessments of trail conditions should be conducted to address surface material, drainage, vegetation clearing, signage, fencing, barriers and any necessary repairs.

**ADOPTION STATEMENT:** This Negative Declaration was adopted and above California Environmental Quality Act findings made by the:

\_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_

GLENN RUSSELL, Planning Manager  
Regulatory Planning Division

GR:KB:tf

ND08-04\0300002-ND

GARY L. PRYOR  
DIRECTOR



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August 19, 2004

### **CEQA Initial Study - Environmental Checklist Form (Based on the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G Rev. 10/98)**

1. Project Number(s)/Environmental Log Number/Title:

County Trails Program (CTP); GPA 04-010; LOG NO. 03-00-002

2. Lead agency name and address:

County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B,  
San Diego, CA 92123-1666

3. a. Contact Kristin Blackson, Project Environmental Analyst  
b. Phone number: (858) 694-3012  
c. E-mail: kristin.blackson@sdcounty.ca.gov

4. Project location:

The County of San Diego is located in Southern California bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean, to the east by Imperial County, to the north by Orange and Riverside Counties, and to the south by Mexico. The project covers all unincorporated portions of the County of San Diego over which the County has land use jurisdiction.

5. Project sponsor's name and address:

County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite P  
San Diego, CA 92123

6. General Plan Designation and Zoning: Various

7. Description of project (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation):

Each of the components of the County Trails Program (project) is discussed below and they can each be reviewed on the County website as follows: [http://www.sdcdplu.org/dplu/ceqa\\_public\\_review.html](http://www.sdcdplu.org/dplu/ceqa_public_review.html) or at 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92123.

The proposed project is the adoption of the County Trails Program (CTP). The components of the CTP include a General Plan Amendment (GPA), Regional Trails Plan (RTP), Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP), a new Trails Ordinance regulating the use of trails and amendments to the County Subdivision Ordinances regarding dedication and improvement of trails.

The CTP will be utilized to develop a system of interconnected regional and community trails and pathways. These trails and pathways are intended to address an established public need for recreation and transportation, but will also provide health and quality of life benefits associated with hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding throughout the County's biologically diverse environments. The CTP involves both trail development and management on public, semi-public and private lands. The CTP has established two forms of non-motorized facilities called "Trails" and "Pathways".

**Trails** are paths, typically away from vehicular roads, that are primarily recreational in nature but can also serve as an alternative mode of non-motorized transportation. They are soft-surface facilities for single or multiple use by pedestrians, mountain bicyclists and equestrians. Trail characteristics vary depending on location and user types.

**Pathways** are non-motorized transportation facilities located within a parkway or road right of way. Typical parkway/right of way width is 10 feet graded with decomposed granite or natural tread surface material. Pathways are intended to serve both circulation and recreation purposes. They provide a different experience from trails and are not an equivalent substitute; however, pathways help make critical connections and are an integral part of a functional trail system.

The adoption of the CTP would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. The community trails maps contained in the CTP depict corridors of general alignments. The term "general alignment" is used to describe the general location of a future trail within a quarter-mile wide corridor. When an application for a specified discretionary development permit is submitted for land that includes a trail corridor, the specific location of a proposed trail within the trail corridor would be determined based on a route study. The route study would determine the appropriate location of the new trail in the corridor based on the trail design criteria included in the CTMP. The purpose of these criteria is to locate trails where they avoid causing impacts to sensitive habitat and other significant environmental resources. The environmental review for the proposed

discretionary project would include a site-specific analysis of the trail proposed in the route study.

## **PROJECT COMPONENTS**

### **I. General Plan Amendment**

The proposed General Plan Amendment (GPA) includes the following changes:

#### **Public Facilities Element**

A new section entitled "County Trails Program" is to be added to the Public Facilities Element of the General Plan that includes the following:

- Regional Trails Plan
- Goals and Policies for the County Trails Program
- The Need for Trails

#### **Recreation Element**

The County has developed a new County Trails Program and the existing Riding and Hiking Trails text, currently contained in Chapter 3 of the Recreation Element of the General Plan, will be deleted in its entirety.

#### **Community Plans**

The General Plan contains six Community Plans that have an adopted trails plan (map and text), and they are as follows: Central Mountain, Ramona, San Dieguito, Spring Valley, Sweetwater and Valle De Oro. These community trails plans have been updated and will be relocated from the General Plan and incorporated into individual community plan sections within the Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP).

### **II. Regional Trail Plan**

The Regional Trail Plan (RTP) focuses on a regional trail network that functions as the backbone of the County trails system and, provides significant north-south and east-west trail corridors.

Regional trails have characteristics and conditions that serve a regional function by covering long linear distances, transcending community and/or municipal borders, having historical, state or national significance, or providing important connections to existing parks and open space preserves. Planning for regional trails will focus on connectivity as the most important factor. There are several existing and planned trails with characteristics and conditions that lend themselves to serving a regional function or need. In some cases, these trails extend beyond County boundaries.



The nine regional trails that cross through the County of San Diego are as follows:

- California Coastal Trail (Existing/Proposed)
- California Riding and Hiking Trail (Existing)
- Coast to Crest Trail (San Dieguito River Park Trail) (Existing/Proposed)
- Juan Bautista De Anza Trail (Historical Route Existing/Proposed)
- Otay Valley Regional Park Trail (Existing/Proposed)
- Pacific Crest Trail (Existing)
- San Diego River Park Regional Trail (Existing/Proposed)
- Sweetwater River and Loop Trail (Existing/Proposed)
- Trans-County Trail (Existing/Proposed)

Many of these trails have undergone environmental review by the appropriate federal, state and local agencies, and the alignments are fairly well established and/or are in the later stages of planning and implementation. The regional trail system has a significant number of trail segments that would occur on public lands, thereby limiting those on private lands.

The majority of regional trails are shared public facilities with multi-jurisdictional authority. The County will implement the missing regional trail segments located within the unincorporated area and will coordinate with other agencies when regional trail segments/connections cross multiple jurisdictional boundaries.

### **III. Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP)**

Community trails serve a different function than regional trails. Regional trails are focused on the provision of long linear distances, whereas, community trails are local public facilities in close proximity to residents. Both regional and community trails are multi-use, trails that are intended for passive non-motorized recreation and alternative modes of transportation.

The Community Trail Master Plan (CTMP) focuses on community trails for the unincorporated area of San Diego County. The CTMP covers topics applicable to both community and regional trails, such as the need for trails, benefits of trails, planning considerations, design criteria, design and construction considerations, management, and implementation of trails.

The CTMP also includes individual sections for each Community Planning or Sponsor Group (CPSG), as well as each unrepresentative sub-region in the County. Through the community trails outreach process, County staff assisted each participating Community Planning or Sponsor Group (CPSG), or their respective trail subcommittee with a process to review and comment on draft countywide trail design guidelines.

In addition, the CPSGs were given the opportunity to create individualized community specific trail maps and trail design guidelines. These groups went through an extensive process of assigning names, priority status and mileage to their trails. The result was the creation of individual community sections consisting of detailed trail maps, implementation features unique to the community, and additional community-specific goals, policies or guidelines.

The CTMP was specifically tailored to be separate from the General Plan to provide flexibility and allow the County to amend individual trail plans to accommodate changing needs or adjust for new trail opportunities without having to amend the General Plan.

#### **IV. New Trails Ordinance**

The CTP (project) includes the adoption of a new Trails Ordinance that, among other things, specifies the uses allowed on trails (mountain bicycling, hiking and riding horses) and the activities that are prohibited (motorized vehicles, tampering with or destroying trail signs, placing or constructing any obstacle on a trail, etc.).

#### **V. Ordinance Amendments Regarding Dedication of Trails**

The CTP (project) includes amendments to the County Subdivision Ordinance to require the dedication and improvement of trails in conjunction with the approval of the following discretionary permits:

- Major Subdivisions
- Minor Subdivisions
- Revised Maps
- Expired Maps

The County may also require dedication and improvement of trails in conjunction with approval of discretionary permits listed in the Program Implementation Section 9 of the CTMP.

#### **VI. Amendments to the County of San Diego Public Road Standards**

The County Public Road Standards will also be amended. The amendment will delete references to Board Policy I-116 (which is to be repealed) and add reference to the CTMP.

## **VII. Repeal Board Policy I-116**

Lastly, the project includes the repeal of Board of Supervisors Policy I-116, "Policy for Establishing Criteria for the Development and Operation of a Regional and Community Plan Non-Motorized Trail and Pathways System." With the adoption of the CTP, the General Plan Amendment, the new Trails Ordinance and ordinance amendments described above, there will no longer be a need for this policy.

### **Purpose and Need**

In September 2000, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors affirmed that trails outside of County parkland and road rights-of-way for non-motorized use are a legitimate and necessary form of public recreation that the County should provide. This action was followed by a Countywide Trail System Assessment (TSA) that provided San Diego-specific trail information, created a foundation for the project, the County Trails Program (CTP), and recommended that the three County departments, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Land Use and Public Works, develop the CTP. The TSA included an analysis of trail needs, planning opportunities, implementation methods, management structures and funding.

The Trail System Assessment concluded that existing trail opportunities in San Diego County are varied and showcase the diverse scenery of the many parks, open spaces, cultural resources, and wilderness areas of the region. The region is graced with nearly ideal weather for trail activities on most days of the year. County residents have access to a wide variety of trail opportunities from coastal boardwalks, to nature trails in city and county parks, to secluded trails on high mountain peaks and remote desert lands.

In July 2001, the Board of Supervisors gave direction on how to structure planning documents and major trail program elements with the goal of providing regional and community trails that meet the needs of County residents. As a result the CTP was initiated. In 2002, the Board of Supervisors endorsed the Countywide Goals and Policies for the program and for inclusion in the Public Facilities Element of the General Plan.

**The project, CTP, does not include the dedication, acceptance or improvement of any specific trail. The project includes trail corridors and the framework and standards by which the County may require the future dedication and improvement of trails within those corridors in conjunction with the approval of certain discretionary development projects.**

#### **7. Surrounding land uses and setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):**

While 18 incorporated cities lie within the County, the majority of the land (approximately 2,300,000 acres) within the County is unincorporated. Private land ownership accounts for approximately 36% of the County's unincorporated

lands. Public land ownership accounts for approximately 64% of the County's unincorporated lands. For purposes of this document public land consists of land either held or managed by County, State, or Federal entities.

The County terrain varies from west to east, sloping up from the ocean, transitioning to rolling hills and then steep mountains that finally give way to flat and gently sloping deserts. The County is a generally semi-arid environment and supports a wide range of habitats and biological communities. These habitats and communities range from grasslands and shrublands to coniferous forests and desert habitats. Additionally, these habitats and communities vary greatly depending on the ecoregion, soils and substrate, elevation and topography.

The urban areas of the County are predominantly in the west, either surrounding the City of San Diego, or interspersed between the City of San Diego and the cities in Orange and Riverside Counties. Further east, the land is primarily undeveloped, with the largest developed area in the eastern portion of the County being the community of Borrego Springs. Most areas that have been developed in the eastern portion of the County have been predominantly developed in a rural fashion, with large lot sizes, agricultural or related uses, and have limited infrastructure and service availability.

The County is serviced by Interstates 5, 15, 163, and 805 that all run north and south throughout the western portion of the County and Interstate 8 that runs east and west throughout the southern portion of the County. Additionally, the County is serviced by State Highways 67 and 79 that both run north and south throughout the western and eastern sides of the County and State Highways 76, 78 and 94 that all run east and west across the County.

8. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

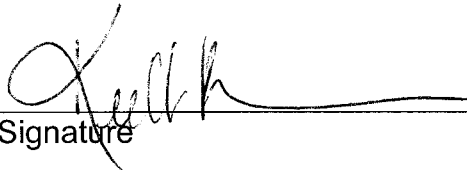
None.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:** The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Aesthetics</u>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Agriculture Resources</u>              | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Air Quality</u>              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Biological Resources</u>            | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cultural Resources</u>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Geology &amp; Soils</u>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Hazards &amp; Haz. Materials</u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Hydrology &amp; Water Quality</u>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Land Use &amp; Planning</u>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Mineral Resources</u>               | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Noise</u>                              | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Population &amp; Housing</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Public Services</u>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Recreation</u>                         | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Transportation/Traffic</u>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Utilities &amp; Service Systems</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Mandatory Findings of Significance</u> |  |

**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by the Lead Agency)  
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, the Department of Planning and Land Use finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Kristin Blackson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

8/17/04  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Land Use/Environmental Planner  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

## **INSTRUCTIONS ON EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

## **INTRODUCTION**

***This proposed project, the adoption of the County Trails Program (CTP), would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a Countywide system of general trail alignments. The term "general alignment" is used to describe the general location of a future trail within a designated corridor. The designated corridor is approximately a quarter mile wide. The general alignment is useful because it allows the trail to be located to avoid extreme topographical conditions, sensitive habitat and other site-specific constraints.***

***When an application for a specified discretionary development permits submitted for land that includes a trail corridor, the specific location of a proposed trail within the trail corridor would be determined based on a route study. The route study would determine the appropriate location of the new trail in the corridor based on the trail design criteria included in the CTP. The purpose of these criteria is, in part, to locate trails where they avoid causing impacts to sensitive habitat and other significant environmental resources. In the unlikely event that impacts to environmental resources cannot be entirely avoided due to the necessity of connecting essential trail linkages, mitigation is incorporated into the plan that will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.***

***The CTP consists of goals, policies and implementation strategies and design criteria that will be used to determine the specific location and design of trails. Goals, policies and implementation strategies represent a common hierarchy of planning principles - going from the most general to the most specific. A goal, as used in this document is a general direction-setter. It is a future result toward which planning and implementation measures are directed. A policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making and indicates a commitment to a particular course of action. A policy is based on and helps implement a goal. An implementation strategy is the most specific of the planning principles. It describes specific actions or implementation measures that effectuate a policy.***

**I. AESTHETICS** -- Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Scenic vistas are singular vantage points that offer unobstructed views of valued viewsheds, including areas designated as official scenic vistas along major highways or County designated visual resources. The project proposes trail corridors within several scenic resources designated by the County. However, the development and use of a countywide trail system will not change the composition of an existing scenic vista; therefore will not significantly impact those scenic vistas or highways. The Scenic Highway Element of the San Diego County General Plan supports the recreational use of lands adjacent to and in proximity to a scenic vista or scenic highway. Therefore, the project will not result in any adverse project or cumulative level effect on a scenic vista.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** State scenic highways refer to those highways that are officially designated. A scenic highway is officially designated as a State scenic highway when the local jurisdiction adopts a scenic corridor protection program, applies to the California Department of Transportation for scenic highway approval, and receives notification from Caltrans that the highway has been designated as an official Scenic Highway. The project proposed trails within the same composite viewshed as a State scenic highway. However, the development of trails within the viewshed will not change the visual composition of an existing scenic resource within a State scenic highway. Generally, the area defined within a State scenic highway is the land adjacent to and visible from the vehicular right-of-way. The dimension of a scenic highway is usually identified using a motorist's line of vision, but a reasonable boundary is selected when the view extends to the distant horizon.

The proposed project may eventually result in the development of a countywide system of trails. The project is compatible with the existing visual environment in terms of visual character and quality for the following reasons:



In general, no large-scale grading should be used for trail construction. Varying trail grades are acceptable, but excessive trail grades should be minimized, as topography permits.

No large-scale grading will be used for trail construction unless in conjunction with a development project where large-scale grading has been found acceptable. The degree of cut allowed on a slope depends on the soil type, hardness, and surrounding natural resources. Ultimate cuts will be contoured to blend with the natural slopes. Berms of earth, rock or wood on the outside of the trail may be necessary. Limited terracing or building steps to avoid large-scale grading will handle steep areas. Only those rocks, stumps, and roots, which interfere with safe passage, will be removed. Therefore, the project will not result in any adverse project or cumulative level effect on a scenic resource within a State scenic highway.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Potentially Significant Unless  
Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Visual character is the objective composition of the visible landscape within a viewshed. Visual character is based on the organization of the pattern elements line, form, color, and texture. Visual character is commonly discussed in terms of dominance, scale, diversity and continuity. Visual quality is the viewer's perception of the visual environment and varies based on exposure, sensitivity and expectation of the viewers. The development of trails will not change the visual composition of an existing visual character or quality of the site. The proposed project may eventually result in the development of a countywide system of trails. The project is compatible with the existing visual environment in terms of visual character and quality for the following reasons:

In general, no large-scale grading should be used for trail construction. Varying trail grades are acceptable, but excessive trail grades should be minimized, as topography permits.

No large-scale grading will be used for trail construction unless in conjunction with a development project where large-scale grading has been found acceptable. The degree of cut allowed on a slope depends on the soil type, hardness, and surrounding natural resources. Ultimate cuts will be contoured to blend with the natural slopes. Berms of earth, rock or wood on the outside of the trail may be necessary. Limited terracing or building steps to avoid large-scale grading will handle steep areas. Only those rocks, stumps, and roots, which interfere with safe passage, will be removed.

Therefore, the project will not result in any adverse project or cumulative level effect on visual character or quality on-site or in the surrounding area.

- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project would not produce any light, glare, or dark sky impacts. Lighting may be associated with new, proposed staging areas. The County's Light Pollution Code, County Code section 59.101 and following, generally regulates the installation of outdoor light fixtures to minimize impacts to dark skies. The applicant for any permit from the County (with a few exceptions not applicable here) that involves exterior lighting must comply with this ordinance that specifies lamp type and shielding regulations. Therefore, any trail development constructed as a result of the proposed project will not generate excessive glare or have excessive reflective surfaces.

**II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES** -- In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail alignments (quarter mile wide corridors) for the purpose of eventually developing trails within those corridors. Some proposed trails shown in the CTP would be located in areas designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance pursuant to the

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency and trails are also proposed to be located on prime agricultural soils. Because of the minimal footprint of a trail, the presence of trails on Farmland will not convert the land to non-agricultural uses or adversely affect prime soils. In addition, the following Policies to be included in the Public Facilities Element of the General Plan and Implementation Strategies in the CTMP, put a priority on the protection of agriculture and avoiding potential impacts to agriculture through proper management of trails in areas on or adjacent to agricultural activities:

**Policies:**

**CP 4.3:**

Encourage the involvement and input of the agricultural community in matters relating to trails on or adjacent to agricultural lands and place a priority on the protection of agriculture.

**CP 4.4:**

Pursue mechanisms for securing trail routes across agricultural and grazing lands from willing property owners that are fair and reasonable, such as purchase, easements negotiated through incentives, or license agreements.

**CP 4.6:**

During trail design on or adjacent to agricultural land, notify and coordinate with the affected landowners to consider any special features that may be needed.

**CP 4.10:**

The County Agricultural Commissioner is authorized to close public trails for a specified period of time on or adjacent to land in active agricultural production when trail activity could be injurious to agriculture or the public. Such conditions could include, but not be limited to, quarantines, outbreaks of plant or animal disease, application of certain pesticides, or damaging infestations of insect pests.

**Implementation Strategies:**

**CIS 4.2:**

Recognize that some agricultural operations will need certain controls on trails, such as authorized temporary trail closure for periods of pesticide application or other operational occurrences to maintain the economic viability of the agricultural operation, and solicit input from the operator as part of the trail design considerations.

**CIS 4.8:**

Gates, fencing, and other physical barriers shall be used to control access and provide increased user safety when warranted by site conditions.

**CIS 4.9:**

If the County Agricultural Commissioner must close a trail pursuant to CP 4.10, the trail manager will give advance notification, when possible, by contacting affected local trail organizations, newspapers, or by posting the trail, and will consider potential temporary rerouting of the trail.

The minimal footprint of trails combined with the policies contained in the Public Facilities Element of the General Plan and Implementation Strategies contained in the CTMP, should prevent significant impacts to agricultural resources.

Therefore, no potentially significant project or cumulative level conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use will occur as a result of this project.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Some trails proposed in the CTP may be located on land under a Williamson Act Contract and land zoned for agriculture; however, the proposed trails will not conflict with these uses or the Williamson Act contract. The purpose of the Williamson Act, or Land Conservation Act, is primarily to preserve agricultural land for agriculture. However, the Williamson Act also allows uses that are compatible with agriculture. The Act states that compatible uses include recreational and open space uses. (Gov. Code section 51201(e).) A trail is a recreational use and, therefore, is compatible with agricultural uses for purposes of the Williamson Act. Therefore, there will be no conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.

c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project will not result in the conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use due to the location or nature of trails. As stated above, trails have a small footprint. Furthermore, according to the Goals and Policies to be included in Public Facilities Element of the General Plan, the design of trails that are located on or adjacent to agricultural land will be coordinated with the affected landowners to consider any special features that may be needed. The CTP makes protection of agriculture a high priority and encourages mechanisms for securing trail routes across agricultural land through, purchase, easements negotiated through incentives, and

license agreements. Refer to Section II Agricultural Resources, Question (a), for more information.

**III. AIR QUALITY** -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Operation of the project will not result in emissions of significant quantities of criteria pollutants listed in the California Ambient Air Quality Standards or toxic air contaminants as identified by the California Air Resources Board. As such, the proposed project is not expected to conflict with either the RAQS or the SIP. In addition, the project is consistent the SANDAG growth projections used in the RAQS and SIP, therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact.

- b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** In general, air quality impacts from land use projects are the result of emissions from motor vehicles, and from short-term construction activities associated with such projects. The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) has established screening-level criteria for all new source review (NSR) in APCD Rule 20.2. For CEQA purposes, these screening-level criteria can be used as numeric methods to demonstrate that a project's total emissions (e.g. stationary and fugitive emissions, as well as emissions from mobile sources) would not result in a significant impact to air quality. Since APCD does not have screening-level criteria for emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the use of the screening level for reactive organic compounds (ROC) from the CEQA Air Quality Handbook for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which has stricter standards for emissions of ROCs/VOCs than San Diego's, is appropriate. However, the eastern portions of the county have atmospheric conditions that are characteristic of the Southeast Desert Air Basin

(SEDAB). SEDAB is not classified as an extreme non-attainment area for ozone and therefore has a less restrictive screening-level. Projects located in the eastern portions of the County can use the SEDAB screening-level threshold for VOCs.

The development of a countywide trail program is not expected to contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation. In segments of trail development where grading would be required, projects may be subject to the County of San Diego Grading Ordinance. The Grading Ordinance ensures that a proposed project would not contribute to the violation of any air quality standard. Sections 87.205(c)(10), 87.206(a)(15)(kk), and 87.208 (b)(12) of the Grading Ordinance require that minor grading and major grading include dust control measures sufficient to comply with section 87.428 which states that all clearing and grading shall be carried out with dust control measures adequate to prevent creation of a nuisance to persons or public or private property.

There are no other potential air quality issues related to the development of a countywide trails system. As such, the project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.

- c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** San Diego County is presently in non-attainment for the 1-hour concentrations under the California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) for Ozone (O3). San Diego County is also presently in non-attainment for the annual geometric mean and for the 24-hour concentrations of Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM10) under the CAAQS. O3 is formed when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) react in the presence of sunlight. VOC sources include any source that burns fuels (e.g., gasoline, natural gas, wood, oil); solvents; petroleum processing and storage; and pesticides. Sources of PM10 in both urban and rural areas include: motor vehicles, wood burning stoves and fireplaces, dust from construction, landfills, agriculture, wildfires, brush/waste burning, and industrial sources of windblown dust from open lands.

The project does not propose any construction and/or operation that have the potential to emit any criteria air pollutants. No increase in vehicular trips is anticipated as a result of the project. Further, there are no substantial grading operations associated with the construction of the project. As such, the project will not result in the in a cumulatively considerable net increase of PM10, or any O3 precursors.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

Air quality regulators typically define sensitive receptors as schools (Preschool-12th Grade), hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality.

**Less Than Significant Impact:** No emissions of air pollutants are associated with the project. As such, the project will not expose sensitive populations to excessive levels of air pollutants. Moreover, all future discretionary projects will be required to comply with dust control measures in the grading as detailed in Section VI Air Quality, Question (b).

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** No potential sources of objectionable odors have been identified with the proposed project. Thus, the project is not expected to generate any significant levels of objectionable odors.

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated:** This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail alignments (quarter mile wide corridors) for the purpose of eventually developing trails within those corridors. The adoption of this CTP will establish a plan to proceed with acquisition, improvement, and use of a countywide trail system and support facilities. The County of San Diego is a unique environment for biological resources. The varied geography, climate, geology and topography within the County have led to an unusually high number of sensitive vegetation types and sensitive species' habitats.

The CTP gives preference to trails that follow existing dirt roads and trails; however, mapping does not pick up this level of accuracy.

Potential adverse affects (direct impacts) could arise from acquisition and construction of new trails/staging areas; recreational use of trails/staging areas; change in use of existing trails; and maintenance or improvement of existing trails. Indirect impacts from increased activity in wildlands could result in potential adverse impacts to habitats in the trail vicinity. Trail use could also spread non-native plant species into natural land. Potential indirect impacts due to noise generation from trail users is considered less than significant due to the low frequency and intensity of recreational trail use.

All discretionary projects proposed within the County of San Diego must conform to the following Ordinances and Statutes, as applicable:

**Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)/Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO; County Code section 86.501 et seq.):** The MSCP is a long-term regional conservation plan designed to establish a connected preserve system that protects the County's sensitive species and habitats. The MSCP covers 582,243 acres over 12 jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction will have their own Subarea Plan to be implemented separately from one another. The County's Subarea Plan covers 252,132 acres in the southwestern portion of the unincorporated lands. The County Subarea Plan is regulated by the Biological Mitigation Ordinance which outlines the specific criteria and requirements for projects within the MSCP boundaries. The County Subarea Plan (adopted October 1997), the BMO (adopted March 1998), the Final MSCP Plan (dated August 1998) and the Implementation Agreement (signed March 1998) between the County and Wildlife Agencies are the documents used to implement the MSCP.

The MSCP provides specific criteria for project design, impact allowances and mitigation requirements. The criteria contained within this document do not replace those required by the MSCP. All projects within the MSCP boundaries must conform to both the MSCP requirements and the County's policies under CEQA.



**Resource Protection Ordinance of 1991 (Ord Nos. 7968, 7739, 7685 and 7631):**

The Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) was adopted in 1989 and later amended in 1991. RPO restricts to varying degrees impacts to various natural resources, including wetlands, wetland buffers, floodplains, steep slopes, sensitive habitat lands and historical sites.

RPO states that no impacts may occur to lands determined to be wetlands as defined by the ordinance, except those impacts related to aquaculture, scientific research and/or wetland restoration projects. In addition, the ordinance requires that a wetland buffer be provided to further protect the wetland resources. Access paths, improvements necessary to protect the adjacent wetlands and those uses allowed within the actual wetland are the only allowed uses within the buffer. No impacts caused by activities other than these specifically mentioned are allowed.

RPO also limits impacts to sensitive habitat lands. Sensitive habitat lands include unique vegetation communities and/or the habitat that is either necessary to support a viable population of sensitive species, is critical to the proper functioning of a balanced natural ecosystem or which serves as a functioning wildlife corridor. Impacts are allowed only when: (1) all feasible measures have been applied to reduce impacts; and (2) mitigation provides an equal or greater benefit to the affected species.

The ordinance includes the provision that when "the extent of environmentally sensitive lands on a particular legal lot is such that no reasonable economic use of such lot would be permitted by these regulations, then an encroachment into such environmentally sensitive lands to the minimum extent necessary to provide for such reasonable use may be allowed". Therefore, very minor impacts, such as one access road, may be allowed when no other feasible alternative exists and the majority of the project is dependent upon the one component that would cause the prohibited impacts. Use of this exception requires approval from DPLU management.

**Habitat Loss Permit Ordinance (HLP) (County Code section 86.501 et seq.):** The HLP Ordinance was adopted in March of 1994 in response to both the listing of the California gnatcatcher as a federally threatened species and the adoption of the Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) by the State of California. Pursuant to the Special 4(d) Rule under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the County is authorized to issue "take permits" for the California gnatcatcher (in the form of Habitat Loss Permits) in lieu of Section 7 or 10(a) Permits typically required from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Although issued by the County, the wildlife agencies must concur with the issuance of a Habitat Loss Permit for it to become valid as take authorization under the Endangered Species Act.

The HLP Ordinance states that projects must obtain a Habitat Loss Permit prior to the issuance of a grading permit, clearing permit or improvement plan if the project will directly or indirectly impact coastal sage scrub habitat (CSS) habitat types. The Ordinance requires an HLP if CSS or related habitat will be impacted, regardless of whether the site is currently occupied by gnatcatchers. HLPs are not required for projects within the boundaries of the Multiple Species Conservation Program since take

authorization is conveyed to those projects through compliance with the MSCP. HLPs are also not required for projects that have separately obtained Section 7 or 10(a) permits for take of the gnatcatcher.

**Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544:** Enacted in 1973, the Endangered Species Act provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems. The Act prohibits the take of threatened and endangered species except under certain circumstances and only with authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712:** Congress passed the MBTA in 1918 to prohibit the take or transport of native migratory birds, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird unless allowed by another regulation adopted in accordance with the MBTA. The take prohibition applies to birds included in the respective international conventions between the U.S. and Great Britain, the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and Russia.

**Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. § 668:** When first enacted in 1940, the Act prohibited the take, transport or sale of bald eagles, their eggs or any part of a eagle except where expressly allowed by the Secretary of Interior. The Act was amended in 1962 to extend the prohibitions to the golden eagle.

**California Endangered Species Act, California Fish and Game Code §§ 2050-2115:** The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) generally parallels the main provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act and is administered by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The CESA prohibits take of any species that the California Fish and Game Commission determines to be a threatened or endangered species. CESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects upon approval from CDFG.

The CTP includes goals, policies, implementation strategies and design criteria for determining the specific location of a new trail. Application of these criteria should result in new trails being located where they avoid biological impacts. The design criteria provide the basic framework to avoid significant impacts to sensitive resources, to educate the public on resource protection, to monitor for environmental effects and to respond both by closing trails and with law enforcement. The result will be that specific trail alignments should avoid significant biological resources and, thus, avoid significant impacts to these resources.

## **Policies**

### **CP 4.7:**

When locating specific trail segments, prioritize locations that avoid significant impacts to sensitive environmental resources.

**CP 4.8:**

Establish and designate trails, whenever feasible, that correspond to existing (non-designated) trails, paths, or unpaved roadbeds that already have a disturbed tread.

**Implementation Strategies:**

**CIS 1.3:**

Use of motorized vehicles on trails shall be prohibited, except for wheelchairs, maintenance, and emergency vehicles. (See section 812.107(a) of the proposed trails ordinances.)

**CIS 4.8:**

Gates, fencing, and other physical barriers should be used to control access and provide increased user safety when warranted by site conditions.

**Design Criteria:**

- B-1: The appropriate resource agencies shall be contacted for consultation regarding any trail alignments that are identified as having potential significant impacts to special status species or their habitat. Prior to trail implementation, the project will be required to coordinate with the State and/or Federal Resource Agencies to ensure conformance with all applicable requirements of the 1603: Streambed Alteration Agreement permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Clean Water Act, Section 404 permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and for consultation regarding any trail alignments that are identified as having potential significant impacts to special status species or their habitat.
- B-2: Appropriate buffers from sensitive resources shall be incorporated (1,000 feet from any golden eagle nest, 100 feet from any active raptor tree nests or 300 feet from any raptor ground nest).
- B-3: In MSCP preserve areas, equestrian, hiking, and bicycles may be allowed when in accordance with approved management plans and consistent with the County of San Diego Subarea Plan (page 1-21).
- B-4: Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- B-5: Physical and/or visual barriers shall be incorporated to protect sensitive habitats, sensitive species, and wetland habitats as follows:
- Fencing shall be used to funnel wildlife away from at-grade road crossings and toward undercrossings; fencing at wildlife undercrossings should be 10 feet high.
  - Use perimeter fencing in linkage areas where wildlife habitat widths are narrower and there is greater exposure to adverse effects.
  - Direct users to designated trails using natural vegetation, topography, signs and limited fencing.

- Design and locate fences so that they do not impede wildlife movement.
- B-6 If the trail is adjacent to corridors, linkages or other areas utilized for wildlife movement, the trail shall be constructed so that its use would not prevent wildlife from accessing areas considered necessary to their survival; restrict wildlife from utilizing their natural movement paths; or further constrain a narrow corridor by reducing width.
- B-7 Trail lighting should not be permitted within wildlife habitat except where essential for roadways, facility use, and safety. Lighting within wildlife habitat or along its edges, should be limited to low pressure sodium sources directed away and shielded from wildlife habitat.
- B-8 Landscaping shall consist of "fire-safe" native plants along habitat edges.
- B-9 Trail grading, clearing or construction shall comply with the following distance and season requirements:

Species	Distance	Breeding Season
Coastal Cactus Wren	300' from occupied habitat	Feb. 15 - Aug. 15
California Gnatcatcher	300' from occupied habitat	Feb. 15 - Aug. 30
Least Bell's Vireo	300' from occupied habitat	Mar. 15 - Sept. 15
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	300' from occupied habitat	May 1 - Sept. 1
Tree-Nesting Raptors	300' from active nest	Feb. 15 - July 15
Ground-dwelling raptors	800' from active nest	Feb. 15 - July 15

- B-10 Proposed trails shall conform to the goals and requirements as outlined in an applicable Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) or similar regional planning effort.
- B-11 In the unlikely event that impacts to sensitive habitat cannot be entirely avoided due to the necessity of connecting essential trail linkages, those impacts will be mitigated according to the Attachment M of the BMO, HLP Ordinance or NCCP Guidelines. For those projects to which the BMO, HLP Ordinance or NCCP Guidelines do not apply, any significant impacts are required to be mitigated in accordance with the following table:

Habitat	Mitigation Ratio
Closed Cone Coniferous Forest	3:1
Coastal Bluff Scrub	3:1
Southern Mixed Maritime Chaparral	3:1
Mafic Southern Mixed Chaparral and Mafic Chamise Chaparral	3:1
Native Grassland	3:1
Oak Woodlands and Broad Leaved Upland Forest	3:1
Wetlands, including Vernal Pools, Alkali	3:1

Habitat	Mitigation Ratio
Marsh, Freshwater Marsh, Riparian Forests, Riparian Woodlands, and Riparian Scrubs	
Maritime Succulent Scrub	3:1
Coastal Sage Scrub	2:1
Coastal Sage – Chaparral Scrub	2:1
Flat topped Buckwheat	2:1
Southern Mixed Chaparral Chamise Chaparral	0.5:1
Chamise Chaparral	0.5:1
Non-native grassland	0.5:1

M-1 Trail maintenance should be required to keep a trail at or near its original or intended standards. Maintenance entities may include the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works and/or specific Community groups. General trail maintenance includes clearing the trail tread to allow access and provide adequate walking or riding surface, free from serious obstacles or hazards. Trail structures, such as bridges and drainage facilities, will be inspected for safety and maintained to prevent loss from erosion. Unauthorized trails will be blocked or covered with brush to camouflage them in order to discourage use, revegetate and protect sensitive habitats.

M-2 Periodic assessments of trail conditions should be conducted to address surface material, drainage, vegetation clearing, signage, fencing, barriers and any necessary repairs.

WQ-3 Trash receptacles/service shall be provided at staging areas, where access to sanitation services is available.

Implementation of the above policies, implementation strategies and design criteria, should preclude any new trails from causing significant impacts to biological resources.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

For project's located within the boundaries of the County's MSCP that may impact sensitive habitats cumulative review is addressed through MSCP. MSCP is the County's comprehensive, long-term habitat conservation program, which addresses the needs of multiple species and preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. MSCP addresses the potential impacts of urban growth, natural habitat loss and species endangerment and creates a plan to mitigate for the potential loss of species and their habitat due to impacts from future development of private and public lands with the MSCP area. MSCP is a Subregional plan under the Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP), which is implemented through local subarea plans. The County subarea plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors to achieve regional biological conservation goals. Also, these projects must be evaluated pursuant to the BMO. The impacts to sensitive habitats are quantified on a Tier basis pursuant to BMO. BMO protects biological resources in the County through the

establishment of criteria for: avoidance of impacts to biological resource core areas; and mitigation requirements for projects requiring a discretionary permit from the County. Conforming to MSCP's planning goals and the BMO's mitigation requirements reduces all cumulative level biological impacts by design. Therefore, the cumulative analysis that is required for individual projects is addressed through an existing plan (MSCP) and ordinance (BMO).

Similar to MSCP and BMO, the NCCP HLP 4(d) Findings collectively address cumulative impacts to coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat and species supported by this habitat. Pursuant to the NCCP and HLP process, specific findings must be made for projects subject to Subregional CSS NCCP Planning Guidelines that may affect CSS. Under this umbrella of conservation planning, individual projects are cumulatively accounted for and reviewed for their cumulative impacts on CSS. The required findings consider issues such as loss of habitat, constrictive of wildlife corridors, buffer areas, potential future preserve design and tier-bases mitigation.

For biological impacts outside of the MSCP, or those which are not covered under the HLP process, any unavoidable impacts must be mitigated per the ratios outlined in B-11. Therefore, the project will not result in significant project specific or cumulative level impacts to biological resources.

- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project includes general trail alignments within wetland habitats and/or wetland buffers. The CTP includes policies, implementation strategies and design criteria for determining the specific location of a new trail. Application of these criteria should result in new trails being located where they avoid biological impacts.

#### **Policies**

CP 4.7:

When locating specific trail segments, prioritize locations that avoid significant impacts to sensitive environmental resources.

CP 4.8:

Establish and designate trails, whenever feasible, that correspond to existing (non-designated) trails, paths, or unpaved roadbeds that already have a disturbed tread.

### **Implementation Strategies:**

#### **CIS 1.3:**

Use of motorized vehicles on trails shall be prohibited, except for wheelchairs, maintenance, and emergency vehicles. (See proposed Trails Ordinance.)

#### **CIS 4.8:**

Gates, fencing, and other physical barriers should be used to control access and provide increased user safety when warranted by site conditions.

### **Design Criteria:**

B-12 Trails proposed adjacent to wetlands habitats or wetland buffers shall be Type C, Primitive Trail, and these trails should not be greater than 4 feet wide.

Type C – Primitive Trails have the following characteristics that will avoid significant impacts to wetland habitats:

- Natural Surface Material
- 1% - 8% Cross Slope
- Maximum 4 foot trail tread width

Furthermore, trail use is not a constant, on-going use that will cause significant impacts to adjacent habitat. The CTP and its implementing ordinances forbid the use of motorized vehicles. The non-motorized recreational uses proposed by the project are periodic and minor. Trail users will be discouraged from traversing off tread by the following design criteria:

B-5: Physical and/or visual barriers shall be incorporated to protect sensitive habitats, sensitive species, and wetland habitats as follows:

- Fencing shall be used to funnel wildlife away from at-grade road crossings and toward undercrossings; fencing at wildlife undercrossings should be 10 feet high.
- Use perimeter fencing in linkage areas where wildlife habitat widths are narrower and there is greater exposure to adverse effects.
- Direct users to designated trails using natural vegetation, topography, signs and limited fencing.
- Design and locate fences so that they do not impede wildlife movement.

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the ACOE has regulatory Authority over the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the waters of the United States. The CDFG regulates alterations of "streambeds" through the development of a Streambed Alteration Agreement pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 6, Sections 1600 – 1603 of the Fish and Game Code. An Agreement is required whenever a project would "divert,

designated by the Department.” Unlike the ACOE process, the Streambed Alteration Agreement is not a discretionary permit, but rather an Agreement developed between an applicant and CDFG with mitigation, impact reduction, or avoidance measures.

Locally, the Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) regulates wetland impacts. The purpose of the RPO is to protect and preserve environmentally sensitive lands along with the County’s unique topography, natural beauty, diversity, and natural resources, for current and future residents of the County of San Diego. The RPO restricts uses allowed in wetland areas to the following uses, *“not involving grading, filling, construction, or placement of structures: 1) aquaculture, provided that it does not harm the natural ecosystem; 2) scientific research, educational or recreational used provided that they do not harm the natural ecosystem; and 3) wetland restoration projects where the primary function is restoration of the habitat”* (Resource Protection Ordinance, Article IV, section 1.) Wetland buffers also have development restrictions, where the only allowable uses include the following: *“1) access paths; 2) other improvements necessary to protect adjacent wetlands; and 3) all uses permitted in wetland areas”* (Resource Protection Ordinance, Article IV, section 2.) The trails that would eventually be developed under the proposed project would be recreational uses that are allowed in wetlands by the RPO if the trails do not harm the natural environment. Therefore, trails proposed in wetlands that would harm the wetland habitat would be prohibited by RPO.

The following design criteria would also minimize the impacts of trails on wetland habitats and wetland buffers:

**Design Criteria:**

- B-1: The appropriate resource agencies shall be contacted for consultation regarding any trail alignments that are identified as having potential significant impacts to special status species or their habitat. Prior to trail implementation, the project will be required to coordinate with the State and/or Federal Resource Agencies to ensure conformance will all applicable requirements of the 1603: Streambed Alteration Agreement permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the Clean Water Act, Section 404 permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and for consultation regarding any trail alignments that are identified as having potential significant impacts to special status species or their habitat.

The appropriate permits shall be obtained from resource agencies for any direct impacts to wetlands or wetland buffers. Obtaining these permits will ensure compliance with associated mitigation, impact reduction, or avoidance measures of those governing agencies; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

However, potential impacts to wetland and wetland buffers may be indirect impacts due the development of trails adjacent to these areas. These indirect impacts can be avoided by applying the following design criteria:



**Design Criteria:**

- G-2 When necessary, to minimize trail impacts, trail development may include:
- Barriers to control trail use and prevent environmental damage.
  - Rerouting the trail and periodic trail closures.
  - Use of existing access routes and dirt roads
  - Avoiding removal of mature native vegetation as much as possible.
- G-4 Disturbance of the soil surface shall be minimized in order to reduce erosion and associated maintenance problems.
- G-5 Erosion control is of the utmost importance in trail design, especially for soft-surface, multi-use trails. Water bars, level breaks constructed with wooden or rubber members laid perpendicular to the path of travel, may be needed to allow trails to climb through steeper terrain. It is important to factor the maintenance related to trails into any trail planning efforts, especially for erosion prevention but also for safety, aesthetic, and environmental reasons.
- G-6 Proper drainage of surface water is the most important factor in design, construction, and maintenance of trails. Grades along trail treads shall be held to a minimum. Occasional fluctuations in the trail grade (grade reversals) should be considered to provide variation for trail users and to facilitate proper drainage. Terrain and special conditions for the trail route alignment and surrounding areas should be considered. The potential for erosion depends on three factors: soil type, velocity of water on the trail, and the distance water travels down the trail. Alteration of any of these factors can reduce the potential for erosion of the trail surface. If distances allow, grade dips are preferred over water-bars. Existing drainage patterns of the surrounding area, such as concentrated drainage channels, must be maintained.
- G-8 In order to reduce erosion and maintenance problems, disturbance of the soil surface will be kept to a minimum. Only those rocks, stumps, and roots, which interfere with safe passage, will be removed.
- G-9 Trail designs will comply with the current County Drainage Manual. Surface water shall be diverted from trails by out sloping the trail tread. Where necessary, grade dips or water bars may be used to divert water on running grades.
- WQ-1 Where trails are located near water bodies listed as impaired pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list, surface water shall be diverted from trails by directing runoff away from the water body. Where necessary, earthen berms, culverts or brow ditches shall be utilized to divert runoff and to eliminate erosion of the trail.
- WQ-2 Prior to trail implementation, staff will coordinate with the project with the Department of Public Works to ensure conformance with all applicable requirements of the County Grading and Stormwater Ordinances.

- M-1 Trail maintenance should be required to keep a trail at or near its original or intended standards. Maintenance entities may include the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works and/or specific Community groups. General trail maintenance includes clearing the trail tread to allow access and provide adequate walking or riding surface, free from serious obstacles or hazards. Trail structures, such as bridges and drainage facilities, will be inspected for safety and maintained to prevent loss from erosion. Unauthorized trails will be blocked or covered with brush to camouflage them in order to discourage use, revegetate and protect sensitive habitats.
- M-2 Periodic assessments of trail conditions should be conducted of trail conditions to address surface material, drainage, vegetation clearing, signage, fencing, barriers and any necessary repairs.

By incorporating the above design criteria, in addition to those listed in Section VIII Biological Resources, Question (a), the project will not result in significant project specific or cumulative level impacts to wetlands and wetland buffers.

- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Potential impacts and proposed mitigation are described in Section IV Biological Resources, Question (b).

- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** Some trails may be located along linear features (drainages, ridges, valley or linear-shaped patches of native vegetation) that connect areas of native vegetation or natural open space. These drainage and topographic features are appropriate wildlife dispersal or migration corridors.

Sound design and management criteria discussed in Section IV Biological Resources, Questions (a) and (b) above should preclude any significant impacts to wildlife dispersal corridors.

- e) Conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Staff has identified no conflicts with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan, including, Habitat Management Plans (HMP), Special Area Management Plans (SAMP) or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources including the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Biological Mitigation Ordinance, Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO), Habitat Loss Permit (HLP).

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated:** This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail

alignments, (quarter mile wide corridors) for the purpose of eventually developing trails within those corridors.

To avoid significant impacts to cultural and/or historical resources resulting from trail development, the CTP includes the following implementation strategies and design criteria for siting and construction of future trails.

**Implementation Strategies:**

- CIS 1.7: Recognize the important public benefit of experiencing firsthand, natural habitats, and cultural and historic resources along trail corridors by designing trails that provide appropriate interpretative features and environmental protection.
- CIS 1.8 Trail alignments should avoid archaeological and sensitive cultural resources.
- CIS 1.9 Mitigate any potential impacts to cultural resources through collection of significant artifacts, documentation and curation of the items by a professional archaeologist. The documentation of the resources may then be interpreted as part of the trail opportunity.
- CIS 1.10 Provide evidence to the satisfaction of the Director of Planning and Land Use that all archeological material recovered during the archeological investigation of the property, including all significance testing and grading monitoring activities, have been curated according to professional repository standards. The collections and associated records shall be transferred, including title, to an appropriate curation facility with San Diego County, to be accompanied by payment of the fees necessary for permanent curation.
- CIS 1.11 Minimize negative impacts on cultural resources by avoiding grading where such resources are known to exist.

**Design Criteria:**

- C-1 Any impacts to significant cultural resources, must be mitigated to a level below significant according to CEQA §21083.2/§15064.5.

**Cumulative Impacts:**

CEQA contains significance criteria for cultural resources and for mitigation of cultural resources; therefore, if a project complies with CEQA, the project can determine significance. Significance determination for prehistoric resources involves the recording and recovery of information. Even though the resource may ultimately not be preserved, CEQA identifies its value as the information that it contains. If recorded, it is not lost, so that there will not be a cumulative loss of the information that it contains.

For other discretionary project complying with CEQA, each project must evaluate the potential presence and significance of cultural resources that could be impacted by the project. For cultural resources determined not to be significant, there is no significant

impact and no mitigation. Because such resources contain limited information about prehistory (e.g. an isolated grinding feature with few or no associated artifacts), any information that might be considered important is recorded during the significance evaluation phase of the project. Because of that, little or no information of importance is lost, so even on a cumulative level, where more than one of these not significant sites is lost, the information of importance has been recorded and there is no significant cumulative loss.

For significant resources, the project can either preserve the resource or perform scientific excavation to recover the important information that the site contains. When data recovery excavations are chosen, enough of the site is excavated such that the important information is recorded and additional excavation would recover redundant information. It is not necessary to excavate an entire site to obtain all the information; therefore, if the project preserves a significant site, there is not potential for that site to contribute to a cumulatively significant impact. Or, if the project completes data recovery excavations according to CEQA, the important information will be recovered.

For cumulative impacts to sacred sites, the County relies on the Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) as well as the Indian community. RPO requires that sacred sites be preserved, so there should be no cumulative loss.

In addition to compliance with CEQA and RPO, sound design and management guidelines have been incorporated into the project to reduce potential project specific and cumulative impacts to cultural resources to a less than significant level.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Potential impacts and proposed mitigation are described in Section V Cultural Resources, Question (a).

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail alignments (quarter mile wide corridors) for the purpose of eventually developing trails within those corridors. A review of the paleontological maps provided by the San Diego Museum of Natural History indicates that the County of San Diego is located on geological formations that contain significant paleontological resources. However, the eventual development of a trail system would consist of a limited development footprint that can be relocated if necessary and would not prohibit the exploration of unique paleontological resources with a prohibitive structure or development.

The CTP includes the following criteria for locating trail alignments that would preclude impacts to paleontological resources:

**Design Criteria:**

- P-1 If feasible, the site-specific trail alignment shall be located outside of any geologic formations characterized as having either High or Moderate paleontological resource potential (Demere and Walsh, 1994). If the relocation of the trail is not feasible within the designated corridor, then grading shall not exceed 10 feet in depth into the unweathered geologic formation.

Therefore, because site-specific trail development will apply the above design criteria, the project will not result in the permanent loss of significant paleontological information. Moreover, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable loss of information, because all projects in the areas with resource potential are required to have paleontological monitor during grading operations if guidelines are exceeded.

- d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Potential impacts and proposed mitigation are described in Section V Cultural Resources, Question (a).

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS** -- Would the project:

- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- i. Would the proposal have the potential to significantly increase the exposure of people to hazards related to fault rupture (Alquist-Priolo

Zone), seismic ground shaking, seismic ground failure (liquefaction), rockfall, or landslides?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail alignments, (quarter mile wide corridors) for the purpose of eventually developing trails within those corridors. Within the project boundaries, there is potential for development within the hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Special Publication 42, Revised 1994, Fault-Rupture Hazards Zones in California. Therefore, significant geologic hazards may exist within the project site including landslides, potential for liquefaction, major fault zones, and potential rockfall hazards.

Groundshaking from a seismic event is the most likely geologic hazard to affect the proposed trail system. Secondary effects of seismic shaking include liquefaction, earthquake induced landslides and rock falls.

However, earthquakes occur in San Diego County very infrequently, and strong earthquakes occur even less frequently. Additionally, for someone to be injured on a trail during an earthquake, the person would have to be on a trail in the hills or mountains where the earthquake would cause a rock fall or landslide or on a trail where the earthquake would cause liquefaction. It is very unlikely that these factors would occur at the same time. Furthermore, if a strong earthquake occurs, it would likely be safer to be on a trail in an open area away from buildings than to be in the city. Therefore, the project would not significantly increase the exposure of people to earthquake hazards.

At the time of discretionary action, if it is determined that a trail is proposed within the above identified hazard zone, the project will be required to conduct a geotechnical survey to determine potential hazards for development within the hazard zone and means for mitigating any such hazards.

Where the issuance of a grading permit is required for trail development, that trail system would be subject to the Grading Ordinance, which includes provisions to address this issue. County Code section 87.211 (a)(2) includes a provision requiring denial of grading or improvement plans if the grading would create an unreasonable geological hazard to persons or public or private property.

Additionally, the following design criterion in the CTP put a priority on avoiding potential hazards:

**Design Criterion:**

G-1 Trails shall be located outside of a hazard zone, as determined by a geotechnical survey, if there is sufficient space in the corridor to do so.

Any structure associated with a staging areas (such as drinking fountains or restrooms) would be required to adhere to the development standards within the County. These standards prohibit the development of structures on active faults and require that all structures adhere to the Uniform Building Code or state-of-the-art seismic design parameters of the Structural Engineers Association of California.

Based on all the analysis above, the project would not significantly increase the exposure of people to hazards.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project area (the unincorporated County) is located within 5 kilometers of the centerline of a known active-fault zone as defined within the Uniform Building Code's Maps of Known Active Fault Near-Source Zones in California. Although no specific structures are proposed as part of this project (CTP), to ensure the structural integrity of all buildings and structures, any future structures associated with staging areas must conform to the Seismic Requirements -- Chapter 16 Section 162- Earthquake Design as outlined within the California Building Code. Section 162 requires a soils compaction report with proposed foundation recommendations to be approved by a County Structural Engineer before the issuance of a building or grading permit. Therefore, there will be no potentially significant impact from the exposure of people or structures to potential adverse effects from strong seismic ground shaking as a result of this project.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |



Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Potential impacts and proposed mitigation are described in Section VI Geology and Soils, Questions (a).

iv. Landslides?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Potential impacts and proposed mitigation are described in Section VI Geology and Soils, Questions (a).

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail alignments (quarter mile wide corridors) for the purpose of eventually developing trails within those corridors. According to the Soil Survey of San Diego County, portions of the soils within the region of San Diego County are identified as Severe or High Erodibility. Development of new trails may be subject to the Grading Ordinance, which includes the following provisions to minimize erosion:

- Section 87.101(d) of the Grading Ordinance requires that the owner and all persons performing any grading operations shall remove all loose dirt from the grading site and provide adequate erosion control to protect persons and property.
- Section 87.414 of the Grading Ordinance includes provisions to ensure implementation of erosion prevention measures associated with the adjacent drainages and waterways.
- Section 87.202 of the Grading Ordinance explains that projects exempt from the requirements to obtain a grading permit are not exempt from the requirements involving erosion prevention.

- Section 87.206(a)(6) of the Grading Ordinance requires projects that need a minor grading permit to install ground cover to protect against erosion of the face of all cut and fill slopes in excess of three vertical feet.
- Section 87.208(b)(7) requires that all grading or improvement plans for major grading be accompanied by a report or sketch indicating all temporary construction erosion and sediment control devices.
- Section 87.211(e) of the Grading Ordinance mandates the denial of grading and improvement plans if the proposed grading fails in any respect to comply with the requirements of the County of San Diego Watershed Protection, Stormwater Management, and Discharge Control Ordinance, including the extensive erosion protection measures contained therein.
- Additionally, a grading permit is required by Section 87.603 when construction is proposed in, upon, or across a watercourse. Thus, a grading permit will be required where a trail would cross a watercourse with culverts, bridges, etc.

The following design criteria and policies in the CTP put a priority on minimizing erosion and loss of topsoil and will minimize potential erosion impacts:

**Design Criteria:**

- G-2 In an attempt to minimize trail impacts, trail development may include, where applicable:
- Barriers to control trail use and prevent environmental damage.
  - Rerouting the trail and periodic trail closures.
  - Use of existing access routes and -dirt roads.
  - Avoiding removal of mature native vegetation as much as possible.
- G-3 Varying trail grades are acceptable, but excessive trail grades should be minimized, as topography permits. The optimum grade ranges described in the Trail Design Guideline (Table DCG-1 of the CTMP) are advisory. Grades of 15 percent or less are preferred but may not be feasible in some locations. Where grades exceed 10 percent for an extended length, long gradual switchbacks may be used, provided there is sufficient easement width. The County may consider varying the guidelines for grade limits with the trail settings. For example, some rural or primitive trails might be steeper and narrower than typical accepted standard guidelines in order to provide a different experience for users.
- G-4 Disturbance of the soil surface shall be minimized in order to reduce erosion and associated maintenance problems.
- G-5 Erosion control is of the utmost importance in trail design, especially for soft-surface, multi-use trails. Water bars, level breaks constructed with wooden or rubber members laid perpendicular to the path of travel, may be needed to allow trails to climb through steeper terrain.
- G-6 Proper drainage of surface water is the most important factor in design, construction, and maintenance of trails. Grades along trail treads shall be held to

a minimum. Occasional fluctuations in the trail grade (grade reversals) should be considered to provide variation for trail users and to facilitate proper drainage. Terrain and special conditions for the trail route alignment and surrounding areas should be considered. The potential for erosion depends on three factors: soil type, velocity of water on the trail, and the distance water travels down the trail. Alteration of any of these factors can reduce the potential for erosion of the trail surface. If distances allow, grade dips are preferred over water-bars. Existing drainage patterns of the surrounding area, such as concentrated drainage channels, must be maintained.

- G-7 The degree of cut allowed on a slope depends on the soil type, hardness, and surrounding natural resources. Ultimate cuts will be contoured to blend with the natural slopes. Berms of earth, rock or wood on the outside of the trail may be necessary. Limited terracing or building steps to avoid large-scale grading will handle steep areas. Steps must be reinforced with stone or wood.
- G-8 In order to reduce erosion and maintenance problems, disturbance of the soil surface will be kept to a minimum. Only those rocks, stumps, and roots, which interfere with safe passage, will be removed.
- G-9 Trail designs will comply with the current County Drainage Manual. Surface water shall be diverted from trails by out sloping the trail tread. Where necessary, grade dips or water bars will be used to divert water on running grades.
- WQ-1 Where trails are located near water bodies listed as impaired pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list, surface water shall be diverted from trails by directing runoff, away from the water body. Where necessary, earthen berms, culverts or brow ditches shall be utilized to divert runoff and to eliminate erosion of the trail.
- WQ-2 Prior to trail implementation, the project will be required to coordinate with the Department of Public Works to ensure conformance will all applicable requirements of the County Grading and Stormwater Ordinances.
- M-1 Trail maintenance should be required to keep a trail at or near its original or intended standards. Maintenance entities may include the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works and/or specific Community groups. General trail maintenance includes clearing the trail tread to allow access and provide adequate walking or riding surface, free from serious obstacles or hazards. Trail structures, such as bridges and drainage facilities, will be inspected for safety and maintained to prevent loss from erosion. Unauthorized trails will be blocked or covered with brush to camouflage them in order to discourage use, revegetate and protect sensitive habitats.
- M-2 Periodic assessments of trail conditions should be conducted of trail conditions to address surface material, drainage, vegetation clearing, signage, fencing, barriers and any necessary repairs.

**Policy**

**CP 4.9**

Trails should be closed when conditions become unsafe or environmental resources are severely impacted. Such conditions could include soil erosion, flooding, fire hazard, environmental damage, or failure to follow an outlined management plan.

In addition to the Grading Ordinance requirements, design criteria and the policies listed above, site-specific environmental review of proposed new trails will be included in the environmental review for the proposed development project that includes the new trail. Any remaining potential erosion impacts would be analyzed and mitigated to the extent feasible. Therefore, project will not result in significantly increased erosion potential.

Furthermore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact because any of the past, present and future projects that involve grading or land disturbance are required to follow the requirements of the County Code sections 87.414 (DRAINAGE - EROSION PREVENTION) and 87.417 (PLANTING); Order 2001-01 (NPDES No. CAS 0108758), adopted by the San Diego Region RWQCB on February 21, 2001; County Watershed Protection, Storm Water Management, and Discharge Control Ordinance (WPO) (County Code section 67.801 et seq.); and County Storm water Standards Manual adopted on February 20, 2002, and amended January 10, 2003 (Ordinance No. 9426).

- c) Will the project produce unstable geological conditions that will result in adverse impacts resulting from landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Potential impacts and proposed mitigation are described in Section VI Geology and Soils, Questions (a).

- c) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	<input type="checkbox"/> No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail alignments (quarter mile wide corridors) for the purpose of eventually developing trails within those corridors. Some proposed trail corridors may cross areas with soils having a HIGH shrink-swell behavior as defined in the Soil Survey, San Diego Area CA by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If trails cross these soil types, appropriate design guidelines such as puncheons, bridges, or turnpikes may be employed. If design guidelines prove cost prohibitive, avoidance of extensive areas of these soils may be necessary. However, due to the limited number and scale of proposed structures associated the proposed project; there is little potential for impacts to occur.

Where the issuance of a grading permit is required for trail development, that trail system would be subject to the Grading Ordinance, which includes provisions to address this issue. Section 87.209 requires a soil investigation report prior to approval of grading and improvement plans which would include the correction of weak or unstable soil conditions and treatment of any expansive soils that may be present.

In addition to these Grading Ordinance requirements, site-specific environmental review of proposed new trails will be included in the environmental review for the proposed development project that includes the new trail. Any remaining potential soils problems would be analyzed and mitigated to the extent feasible. Therefore, the project will not result in unstable soil conditions.

- d) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Potentially Significant Unless  
Mitigation Incorporated

☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project is for a Countywide trails program. The project does not propose any septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems since no wastewater will be generated.

**VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** -- Would the project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or wastes?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment because it does not propose or involve the storage, use, transport, disposal, or handling of Hazardous Substances.

- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment because it does not propose or involve the storage, use, transport, disposal, or handling of hazardous materials.

Some trails may be located adjacent to or on land used for agricultural purposes that may include the use of pesticides. The following management guidelines in the CTP will prevent any hazards to the public from the use of pesticides along trails that run through or adjacent to agricultural land.

**Policy**

CP 4.10:

The County Agricultural Commissioner is authorized to close public trails for a specified period of time on or adjacent to land in active agricultural production when trail activity could be injurious to agriculture or the public. Such conditions could include, but not be limited to, quarantines, outbreaks of plant or animal disease, application of certain pesticides, or damaging infestations of insect pests.

**Implementation Strategies**

CIS 4.8:

Gates, fencing, and other physical barriers shall be used to control access and provide increased user safety when warranted by site conditions.

CIS 4.9:

If the County Agricultural Commissioner must close a trail pursuant to CP 4.10, the trail manager will give advance notification, when possible, by contacting affected local trail organizations, newspapers, or by posting the trail, and will consider potential temporary rerouting of the trail. (See proposed Trails Ordinance, County Code section 812.214.)

Furthermore, pesticide users are required to register with and obtain a permit from the Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures. This permit regulates pesticide use and requires that pesticides be confined to the property on which they are being used.

Therefore, the project will not create a significant hazard to the public from the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. In addition, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact, because all the past, present and future projects are required to store, handle, and dispose of potentially toxic substances in full compliance with local, State, and Federal regulations.

- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Trails may be located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school site. However, the project does not propose the handling, storage, or transport of hazardous materials. Therefore, the project will not have any effect on an existing or proposed school.

- d) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** A portion of a trail may be located on a site listed in the State of California Hazardous Waste and Substances sites list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The sites included on this list are largely auto repair shops and gas stations that have been the subject of corrective action or have had an unauthorized release from an underground storage tank. The CTP includes the following design criterion for locating trail alignments:

**Design Criterion:**

H-1 A trail alignment shall be moved so that it does not cross the property on the Hazardous Wastes and Substances Site List.

This criterion for locating a trail in the general corridor should prevent significant impacts due to hazardous substance exposure.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The County of San Diego has nine public airports: Agua Caliente Springs Airport, Borrego Valley Airport, Brown Field Municipal Airport, Fallbrook Community Airpark, Inc., Gillespie Field Airport, Jacumba Airport, McClellan-Palomar Airport, Ocotillo Airport and Ramona Airport. The project proposes trails within a two-mile radius of a majority of the public airports listed above. The project does not propose any structures or obstructions to aircraft flight that would present a safety hazard.

The development of trails near airports will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area because the trails will be for recreational use, not for permanent use such as residential, commercial or industrial. Furthermore, the public's recreational use of trails that may be located near airports should not expose the trail users to any significant safety hazard. Numerous roads and freeways are located near various airports throughout the County. The public drives on these roads daily. On a very infrequent basis, there may be a problem with an airplane that results in the plane landing short of the runway or coming down shortly after takeoff. However, the number of people expected to use the proposed trails would be far less than the amount of vehicle traffic that drives near county airports every day without incident. Therefore, the proposed trails should not expose the people using the trails to a significant safety hazards from airport operations.

- f) For project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |



Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The County of San Diego has more than nine private airports. The project proposes trails within a one-mile radius of many of the private airports. The CTP does not propose any structures or obstructions to aircraft flight that would present a safety hazard. The project does not propose any structures or obstructions to aircraft flight that would present a safety hazard.

The development of trails near airports will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area because the trails will be for recreational use, not for residential, commercial or industrial use. Furthermore, the public's recreational use of trails that may be located near airports should not expose the trail users to any significant safety hazard. Numerous roads and freeways are located near various airports throughout the County. The public drives on these roads daily. On a very infrequent basis, there may be a problem with an airplane that results in the plane landing short of the runway or coming down shortly after takeoff. However, the number of people expected to use the proposed trails would be far less than the amount of vehicle traffic that drives near county airports every day without incident. Therefore, the proposed trails should not expose the people using the trails to a significant safety hazards from airport operations.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The following sections summarize the project's consistency with applicable emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

i. Operational Area Emergency Plan:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The Operational Area Emergency Plan is a framework document that provides direction to local jurisdictions to develop specific operational area of San Diego County. It provides guidance for emergency planning and requires subsequent plans to be established by each jurisdiction that has responsibilities in a disaster situation. The project will not interfere with this plan because it will not prohibit subsequent plans from being established.

ii. San Diego County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan

**No Impact:** The San Diego County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan will not be interfered with by the project due to the location of the project, plant and the specific requirements of the plan. The emergency plan for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station includes an emergency planning zone within a 10-mile radius. All land area within 10 miles of the plant is not within the jurisdiction of the unincorporated County and as such a project in the unincorporated area is not expected to interfere with any response or evacuation.

iii. Oil Spill Contingency Element

**No Impact:** The Oil Spill Contingency Element will not be interfered with because the project is not located along the coastal zone or coastline.

iv. Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Energy Shortage Response Plan

**No Impact:** The Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Energy Shortage Response Plan will not be interfered with because the project does not propose altering major water or energy supply infrastructure, such as the California Aqueduct.

v. Dam Evacuation Plan

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The Dam Evacuation Plan for will not be interfered with because even though the project is located within a dam inundation zone, the project is not for a hospital, school, skilled nursing facility, retirement home, mental health care facility, care facility with patients that have disabilities, adult and childcare facility, jails/detention facilities, stadium, area, amphitheater, or similar use that may limit the ability of the County Office of Emergency Services to implement a dam evacuation plan.

g) Would the proposal have the potential to significantly increase the fire hazard in areas with flammable vegetation?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Trails can serve as fuel/fire breaks, assist with fire containment and provide a defensible position especially in the heavy vegetated but less densely populated areas of the County. Providing firefighters with maps of existing trails can assist them by being able to quickly identify access points to remote or open space areas.

Utilizing vegetation management zones for trail corridors complements the County requirement for minimum defensible area around structures and may also help eliminate potential development site constraints, such as environmental, for locating a trail alignment. Additionally, locating trails in these vegetation management areas could provide the trail user a "safety zone" in the event of fire.

The CTP includes the following design criteria for development of trails:

**Design Criteria:**

- H-2 Final trail alignments shall include access points to allow the trails to also serve as emergency access routes (for patrol or emergency medical transport). For more remote trails, emergency access points should be located, where feasible, approximately every two miles along the trail and provide either access for ground vehicles or helicopter landing sites.
- H-3 Proposed trail alignments shall be reviewed by the local Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction (FAHJ) in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) to ensure compliance with the CTP policies, the Trails Ordinances and the Department of Parks and Recreation Fire Management Plan.
- H-4 Where there is flexibility within a trail corridor, consideration should be given to siting trail alignments that have the least flammable vegetation to aid fire suppression; that avoid severe slopes and hazards for access of emergency personnel and equipment; and that can provide wider horizontal clearance adjacent to trail tread and access points to assist the movement of emergency personnel and equipment.

Due to the above design criteria within the CTP, and through compliance with the Consolidated Fire Code and Appendix II-A, the project will not significantly increase the fire hazard in areas with flammable vegetation. Moreover, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact, because all past, present and future projects in the surrounding area required to comply with the Consolidated Fire Code and Appendix II-A.

- h) Expose people to significant risk of injury or death involving vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not involve or support uses that allow water to stand for a period of 72 hours (3 days) or more (e.g. lagoons, agricultural irrigation ponds). Also, the project does not involve or support uses that will collect animal waste, such as equestrian facilities, agricultural operations (chicken coops, dairies etc.), solid waste facility or other similar uses. Therefore, the project will not expose people to significant risk of injury or death involving vectors.

**VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** -- Would the project:

a) Would the proposal violate any waste discharge requirements?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** This proposed project would not violate any waste discharge requirements because no specific development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the development of a countywide system of general trail alignments.

It is not anticipated that trail development will violate any waste discharge requirements. They would rarely apply to development of a trail. It is possible that trail development may be subject to General Permit No. CAS000002 (Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Construction Activity) if more than 1-acre of land area will be disturbed. In this event, the development project that includes proposed trail would have to develop and comply with a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Any new sanitary facilities required at staging areas will either require a septic system permit approval from the County Department of Environmental Health, notification of the appropriate sewer district for connection to the sewer system, or contract with a sanitary waste pumping, transport, and disposal contractor.

Finally, the project's conformance to the waste discharge requirements listed above ensures the project will not create cumulatively considerable water quality impacts related to waste discharge because, through the permit, the project will conform to Countywide watershed standards in the JURMP and SUSMP, derived from State regulation to address human health and water quality concerns. Therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact to water quality from waste discharges.

- b) Is the project tributary to an already impaired water body as listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list? If so, could the project result in an increase in any pollutant for which the water body is already impaired?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail development is proposed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail alignments (quarter mile wide corridors) for the purpose of eventually developing trails within those corridors. Trail alignments are proposed along and across water bodies or portions of water bodies listed as impaired pursuant to the 2002 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. Impaired water bodies located near CTP trails include: Sandia Creek, Santa Margarita River, Rainbow Creek, San Luis Rey River, Pine Valley Creek, and Lake Hodges. These water bodies are listed as impaired for Color, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Total Dissolved Solids, Enterococci, and Chloride.

Potential pollutants from the development of trails and staging areas may include sediment, trash, hydrocarbons (parking lots), and nitrogen and phosphorus (horse manure).

In order to avoid significant impacts to water quality, the CTP requires the following design criteria be implemented in siting and construction of future trails:

**Design Criteria:**

- WQ-1 Where trails are located near water bodies listed as impaired pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list, surface water shall be diverted from trails by directing runoff away from the water body. Where necessary, earthen berms, culverts or brow ditches shall be utilized to divert runoff and to eliminate erosion of the trail.
- WQ-2 Prior to trail implementation, the project will be required to coordinate with the Department of Public Works to ensure conformance with all applicable requirements of the County Grading and Stormwater Ordinances.
- WQ-3 Trash receptacles/service shall be provided at staging areas, where access to sanitation services is available.

Through conformance with the County Grading Ordinance and Stormwater Ordinance, any future site-specific trails will be consistent with regional surface water and storm water planning and permitting process that has been established to improve the overall water quality in County watersheds. As a result the project will not contribute to a cumulative impact to an already impaired water body, as listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d). Regional surface water and storm water permitting regulation for County of San Diego, Incorporated Cities of San Diego County, and San Diego Unified Port District includes the following: Order 2001-01 (NPDES No. CAS 0108758), adopted by the San Diego Region RWQCB on February 21, 2001; County Watershed Protection, Storm Water Management, and Discharge Control Ordinance (WPO) (County Code section 67.801 et seq.); County Storm water Standards Manual adopted on February 20, 2002, and amended January 10, 2003 (Ordinance No. 9426). The stated purposes of these ordinances are to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the County of San Diego residents; to protect water resources and to improve water quality; to cause the use of management practices by the County and its citizens that will reduce the adverse effects of polluted runoff discharges on waters of the state; to secure benefits from the use of storm water as a resource; and to ensure the County is compliant with applicable state and federal laws. Ordinance No. 9424 (WPO) has discharge prohibitions, and requirements that vary depending on type of land use activity and location in the County. Ordinance No. 9426 is Appendix A of Ordinance No. 9424 (WPO) and sets out in more detail, by project category, what Dischargers must do to comply with the Ordinance and to receive permits for projects and activities that are subject to the Ordinance. Collectively, these regulations establish standards for projects to follow which intend to improve water quality from headwaters to the deltas of each watershed in the County. Each project subject to WPO is required to prepare a Storm water Management Plan that details a project's pollutant discharge contribution to a given watershed and propose BMPs or design measures to mitigate any impacts that may occur in the watershed.

- c) Could the proposed project cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable surface or groundwater receiving water quality objectives or degradation of beneficial uses?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact  
☐ Potentially Significant Unless  
Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less than Significant Impact  
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project would not generate any runoff with pollutants other than those identified in Section V Hydrology, Questions (a) and (b) above. Please refer to Section IV Geologic Issues, Question (b) for a complete description of the Grading Ordinance requirements, design criteria and trails policies in the CTP that should minimize erosion or siltation from trails. In addition, the project does not propose new storm water drainage facilities.

- d) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project will not use any groundwater for any purpose, including irrigation, domestic or commercial demands. In addition, the project does not involve operations that would interfere substantially with groundwater recharge including, but not limited to the following: the project does not involve regional diversion of water to another groundwater basin; or diversion or channelization of a stream course or waterway with impervious layers, such as concrete lining or culverts, for substantial distances (e.g. ¼ mile). These activities and operations can substantially affect rates of groundwater recharge. Therefore, no impact to groundwater resources is anticipated.

- e) Would the proposed project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Please refer to Section IV Geologic Issues, Question (b) for a complete description of the Grading Ordinance requirements, design criteria and trails policies in the CTP that should minimize erosion or siltation from trails.

This proposed project would not cause any direct change to the physical environment because no specific trail would be developed as part of this project. However, implementation of the proposed project would result in the development of a countywide system of trails. Proposed trails contained in the CTP depict corridors of general alignments. The general alignment is useful so that the trail can be located to avoid extreme topographical or other site specific constraints such as an existing drainage, stream or a river.

It is not anticipated that trail development would substantially alter the existing drainage of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation. Some of the proposed trail segments may involve drainage or watercourse crossings such as bridges or other structures. All such work must be done in accordance with all applicable requirements of the County Grading and Stormwater Ordinances, as well as requirements of any necessary State 1603 or Federal 404 permits. Complying with these requirements should preclude alteration of an existing drainage in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off the site.

- f) Would the proposed project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The future development of a countywide trail system will have a minor impact on increased rates of runoff because trails have only a small "footprint" of impervious surfaces. The development of a Countywide trail system would add little, if any, amount of new impervious surface (e.g. concrete or asphalt) to any one area. Therefore, new trails would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area.

Furthermore, new trails that must comply with the County of San Diego Grading Ordinance would be subject to the following:

- Section 87.211(a)(2) of the Grading Ordinance requires the denial of grading and improvement plans if grading would create an unreasonable geological, flood, or other hazard to persons or public or private property.
- Section 87.206 includes requirements that minor grading be protected and conducted so that runoff water leaving the premises will not contain sand, silt, or other debris.
- Sections 87.601 – 87.608 specifically address this issue, placing requirements and restrictions on any work within a watercourse.

- g) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |



Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** There are no existing or planned storm water drainage systems proposed by the project, nor does the project require such systems.

h) Provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** No substantial additional sources of pollutants beyond those identified in Section V Hydrology, Question (b) above, are anticipated or foreseen during actual trail development and staging area construction. Also, please refer to Section IV Geologic Issues, Question (b) for a complete description of the Grading Ordinance requirements, design criteria and trails policies in the CTP that should minimize erosion or siltation from trails. Use of trails for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding should not generate additional sources of polluted runoff.

i) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, including County Floodplain Maps?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose to place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, including County Floodplain Maps and will not place access roads or other improvements that will limit access during flood events or affect downstream properties.

j) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project area, (the unincorporated County) contains drainage swales, which are identified as being 100-year flood hazard areas. However, the project is not proposing to place structures, access roads or other improvements which will impede or redirect flood flows in these areas.

- k) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Some proposed trails lie within a mapped dam inundation area for a major dam/reservoir within San Diego County, as identified on an inundation map prepared by the dam owner. However, the project is not proposing to place structures, access roads or other improvements in these areas. Implementation of the proposed project would result in the designation of a countywide system of general trail alignments. The exact location of a trail in the general alignment will be determined in the future by a route study done in conjunction with a proposal to develop the land which contains the general trail alignment (trail corridor). Therefore, the project does not have the potential to interfere with the San Diego County Operational Area Emergency Plan or the County of San Diego Dam Failure Evacuation Plans. The San Diego County Office of Disaster Preparedness has established an evacuation plan for the area. The project complies with this plan.

- l) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

- i. SEICHE

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Some proposed trail alignments are shown along the shore of a lake or reservoir; however, the project is not proposing to place structures, access roads or other improvements in these areas.

- ii. TSUNAMI

**No Impact:** The project proposes trail alignments located more than a mile from the coast; therefore, in the event of a tsunami, would not be inundated.

iii. MUDFLOW

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Mudflow is type of landslide. Potential impacts and proposed mitigation are described in Section VI Geology and Soils, Questions (a).

**IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING** -- Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | Less than Significant Impact                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose introducing new infrastructure such as major roadways or water supply systems, or utilities to the area. The purpose of the project is to connect communities. Therefore, the proposed project will not significantly disrupt or divide the established community.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The implementation of the proposed project will not be in conflict with any element of the General Plan, community plans or land use designation. The project includes a General Plan Amendment to update and consolidate the discussion of trails in a brief section in the Public Facilities Element.

No significant impacts are anticipated to planned land uses as a result of future trail development because the following CTP Policies and Implementation Strategies would be applied:

**Policies:**

CP 2.2:

Coordinate trail planning, acquisition, development, and management with appropriate jurisdictions.

CP 2.5:

Encourage development of a Community Trails Master Plan to define community goals, policies, and implementation criteria.

CP 2.6:

Consider population-oriented numerical level of service as a principal planning element for community trails and for quantifying future trail needs, but consider other community related factors as well.

CP 4.8:

Establish and designate trails, whenever feasible, that correspond to existing (non-designated) trails, paths, or unpaved roadbeds that already have a disturbed tread.

**Implementation Strategies:**

CIS 2.3:

Use the Community Trails Master Plan as the “umbrella” document that defines countywide community trails goals, policies, and implementation criteria. Individual community specific criteria and community trail maps are within the master plan.

CIS 2.4:

Community Planning and Sponsor Groups interested in developing or expanding their local trail system will work closely with the County to develop their community trail maps. The County will coordinate workshops, organize input and document the trails for approval and adoption of their maps by Board of Supervisors action in the Community Trails Master Plan.

CIS 2.5:

Allow for periodic updates to community-specific criteria and community trail maps and priorities. At that time, participating communities should work with the County to re-evaluate the existing trail network and determine whether modifications, additions, or deletions are needed to reflect current conditions, anticipated future needs, long-term goals, and new opportunities.

Thus, the project would not conflict with the General Plan, any community plan or any land use designation. The project also would not conflict with any zoning because trails are not a “use” that is regulated by the Zoning Ordinance. Moreover, one purpose of using a broad corridor to designate trail routes is to take into consideration existing or potential future uses in the area when determining where to locate the trail alignment within the corridor.

**X. MINERAL RESOURCES** -- Would the project:

- a) Would the proposal result in potentially significant loss of availability of a significant mineral resource that would be of future value to the region?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not result in a loss of availability of a known significant mineral resource that would be of value to the region. Within the area of the project site, the County of San Diego, there are known significant mineral resource areas known as Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2), Mineral Resource Zone 3 (MRZ-3) and other mineral resources that have been identified as significant to the region pursuant to Section 2762 of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). Those mineral resources have been identified on maps prepared by the Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (Update of Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego Production-Consumption Region, 1996).

Impacts to mineral resources can occur when incompatible land uses are located on or in close proximity to these resources. For example, approval of a subdivision or a 100-acre medical complex within a valuable mineral resource area would limit future mining accessibility to the site; whereas a 2,000 sq. ft. communications facility would be less limiting. The proposed project does not include the development of any specific trail. Furthermore, the eventual development of a trail system would consist of a limited development footprint that can be relocated if necessary and would not cap the mineral resources with a prohibitive structure. Therefore, the proposed project will not cause a significant impact to the development and mining of mineral resources.

- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Please refer to the analysis in Section X Mineral Resources, Questions (a).

**XI. NOISE** -- Would the project result in:

- a) Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generations of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The project will not expose people nor generate noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the County of San Diego General Plan, County of San Diego Noise Ordinances, and other applicable standards for the following reasons:

**Design Criteria:**

- N-1 Trails shall be located as far away from occupied dwellings, as practical.
- N-2 Where sufficient setbacks are not feasible, potential noise and privacy impacts shall be evaluated and reduced by use of berms, fencing, landscaping and other feasible and compatible means, if necessary.

**General Plan – Noise Element**

The County of San Diego General Plan, Noise Element, Policy 4b addresses noise sensitive areas and requires an acoustical study to be prepared for any use that may expose noise sensitive areas to noise in excess of a Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) of 60 decibels (dBA). Moreover, if the project is excess of CNEL 60 (dBA), modifications must be made to the project to reduce noise levels. Noise sensitive areas include residences, hospitals, schools, libraries or similar facilities where quiet is an important attribute. Project implementation is not expected to expose existing or planned noise sensitive areas noise in excess of the CNEL 60 (dBA). Therefore, the project will not expose people to potentially significant noise levels that exceed the allowable limits of the County of San Diego General Plan, Noise Element.

**Noise Ordinance – County Code Section 36.404**

Non-transportation noise generated by the project is not expected to exceed the standards of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (County Code section 36.404) at or beyond the project property line. Based on review by the County Noise Specialist, John Bennett, in conjunction with the location criteria described above, the project's noise levels are not anticipated to impact adjoining properties or exceed County Noise Standards because the project does not involve any noise producing equipment that would exceed applicable noise levels at the adjoining property line.

**Noise Ordinance – County Code Section 36.410**

The project will not generate construction noise that may exceed the standards of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (County Code section 36.410). Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36.410. Also, it is not anticipated that the project will operate construction equipment in excess of 75 dB for more than 8 hours during a 24-hour period. The development of a countywide trail system is not expected to require extensive construction equipment.

Finally, the project's conformance to the County of San Diego General Plan (Noise Element, Policy 4b and County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (County Code sections 36.404 and 36.410) ensures that project will not create cumulatively considerable noise impacts, because the project will not exceed the local noise standards for noise sensitive areas; and the project will not exceed the applicable noise level limits at the property line or construction noise limits. Therefore, the project will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable exposure of persons or generation of excessive noise levels.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose any of the following land uses that can be impacted by groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

1. Buildings where low ambient vibration is essential for interior operation, including research and manufacturing facilities with special vibration constraints.
2. Residences and buildings where people normally sleep including hotels, hospitals, residences and where low ambient vibration is preferred.
3. Civic and institutional land uses including schools, churches, libraries, other institutions, and quiet office where low ambient vibration is preferred.
4. Concert halls for symphonies or other special use facilities where low ambient vibration is preferred.

Also, the project does not propose major, new or expanded infrastructure such as mass transit, highways or major roadways or intensive extractive industry that could generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels on-site or in the surrounding area. Therefore, the project will not expose persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels on a project or cumulative level.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact.** The project does not involve permanent noise sources and does not support any noise-generating equipment. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial permanent increase in existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.

- d) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project does not involve any uses that may create substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity including but not limited to extractive industry; outdoor commercial or industrial uses that involve crushing, cutting, drilling, grinding, or blasting of raw materials; truck depots, transfer stations or delivery areas; or outdoor sound systems.

Also, general construction noise is not expected to exceed the construction noise limits of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36-410), which are derived from State regulations to address human health and quality of life concerns. Construction operations will occur only during permitted hours of operation pursuant to Section 36-410. Also, it is not anticipated that the project will operate construction equipment in excess of 75 dB for more than 8 hours during a 24-hour period. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in existing ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.

- e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:



**Less Than Significant Impact:** The development of the trails proposed in the CTP would include some trails located near the following airports: Borrego Valley Airport, Fallbrook Airport, and Ramona Airport. The development of trails near airports would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels because the proposed trails will not be used for residential, commercial or industrial purposes.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The development of the trails proposed in the CTP would include some trails located near the following airports: Borrego Springs, Borrego Air Ranch; Jamul-Dulzura, Klein Airport; Ramona, Flying T Airport; and Pala-Pauma, Lyall-Roberts Airport, Pauma Valley Airport, and Blackington Airport. The development of trails near airports would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels because the proposed trails will not be used for permanent uses such as residential, commercial or industrial purposes.

**XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING** -- Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not induce substantial population growth in an area because the project does not propose any physical or regulatory change that would remove a restriction to or encourage population growth in an area including, but limited to the following: new or extended infrastructure or public facilities; new commercial or industrial facilities; large-scale residential development; accelerated conversion of homes to commercial or multi-family use; or regulatory changes including specific plan amendments, zone reclassifications, sewer or water annexations; or LAFCO annexation actions.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact  
☐ Potentially Significant Unless  
Mitigation Incorporated

- ☐ Less than Significant Impact  
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not displace housing, as trails will be sited as to avoid existing structures, including but not limited to housing units.

- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact  
☐ Potentially Significant Unless  
Mitigation Incorporated

- ☐ Less than Significant Impact  
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not displace housing, as trails will be sited as to avoid existing structures, including but not limited to housing units. Therefore, the proposed project will not displace a substantial number of people

### **XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES**

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

Police protection?

Schools?

Parks?

Other public facilities?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact  
☐ Potentially Significant Unless  
Mitigation Incorporated

- ☒ Less than Significant Impact  
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project may eventually result in the development of a countywide system of trails. The project will not cause significant impacts to schools or parks. The development of a countywide trail system would increase recreational opportunities in the areas where the new trails are located. The project does not involve the construction of new or physically altered governmental facilities, nor would the project generate the need for any new fire or police facilities. Therefore, the project will not have an adverse physical effect on the environment because the project does not require new or significantly altered services or facilities to be constructed.

#### **XIV. RECREATION**

- a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not propose any residential use, included but not limited to a residential subdivision, mobilehome park, or construction for a single-family residence that may increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity.

- b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project involves new and/or expanded recreational facilities. The new and/or expanded facilities include a countywide system of trails. However, as outlined in this Environmental Analysis Form Section I-XVII, the new and/or expanded facilities will not result in adverse physical effect on the environment because all related impacts from the proposed recreation facilities have been mitigated to a level below significance. Refer to Sections I-XVII for more information.

**XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC** -- Would the project:

- a) Would the proposal result in a potential degradation of the level of service of affected roadways in relation to the existing traffic volumes and road capacity?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project will not result in the degradation of the level of service of affected roadways in relation to the existing traffic volumes and road capacity. The intent of the CTP is the development of a community and regional system of trails that are easily assessable without vehicle travel. Therefore, the proposed project will not have a significant project or cumulative level impact on the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system. Additionally, future proposed development that requires a discretionary action (approval), such as a grading permit or subdivision, and that includes a proposed trail will require further environmental review including the site-specific review of the proposed trail. Any potential impacts from the proposed trails will be analyzed and mitigated (to the extent feasible) as a part of the environmental review for that development project.

- b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project does not propose any additional ADTs; therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways. Additionally, the project does not involve construction of any new buildings, nor does it propose a new primary use. The additional access or support structures will not generate ADTs on a daily basis. Therefore, the proposed project will not have a significant cumulative impact on the level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.

- c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project will not have a significant impact on air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks.

- d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project will not result in significant impacts to traffic safety (e.g., limited sight distance, curve radii, right-of-way), as it does not relate to the improvement or modification of any particular roads. The intent of the CTP is the development of a community and regional system of trails that are easily assessable without vehicle travel.

The Design and Construction Guidelines in the CTMP address pedestrian sight distance from proposed trails. Trails must be constructed and improved to certain design standards to the satisfaction of the County of San Diego Department of Public Works. The Guidelines include the following safety requirements:

**Design Criteria:**

- T-1 Trails should intersect roads at approximately ninety (90) degree angles.
- T-2 Where trails cross roads, they should do so at approximately ninety (90) degree angles and crossing/warning signage posted in both vehicular directions. If deemed necessary, the paved roadway surfaces shall be marked with a painted crosswalk and/or flashing warning lights.

Additionally, proposed development that requires a discretionary action (approval), such as a grading permit or subdivision and that includes a proposed trail will require further environmental review including a site-specific analysis of the proposed trail. Any potential impacts from the proposed trails would be analyzed and mitigated (to the extent feasible) as a part of the environmental review for that project.

In addition, any road improvements will be constructed according to the County of San Diego Public and Private Road Standards. The proposed project will not place incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) on existing roadways. Therefore, the proposed project will not significantly increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project will not result in inadequate emergency access, as it does not relate to the improvement or modification of any particular roads, nor does it proposed actions where emergency access is required. The proposed project is the adoption of the County Trails Program.

f) Would the proposal potentially result in insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project does not have the potential to result in insufficient parking because the project includes no specific trail development. Furthermore, the CTP includes trail development guidelines that apply to staging areas and that should help to reduce the potential for staging areas to have insufficient parking.

The CTMP includes the following from the Trail Planning Considerations Section:

Staging areas should be easily accessible for a substantial number of residents. For this reason, locating staging areas on major arterial roads or near freeways or at park and ride lots is recommended. Locations for staging areas should also be carefully planned to avoid potential conflict with residential areas. This can be accomplished by placing them where higher traffic volumes for the staging area would not directly impact the local residents. The County will explore the possibility of utilizing parklands, school campuses, or other semi-public facilities with large parking areas for staging areas. Coordination will be necessary to ensure that peak trail use times do not conflict with normal use of the facility.

The CTMP also includes the following from the Design and Construction Guidelines Section:

Trails do not typically have high volume staging areas. Although in some instances, trail location, popularity, or other factors may create a need for high volume staging areas. Planning of all staging areas in a community relies heavily on input from individual CPSG, or other organized groups in the case where a community is not represented by a planning or sponsor group. It is intended that these staging areas be planned and located on a case-by-case basis.

Site-specific environmental review of a new trail would be included in the discretionary review of a proposed development that includes the new trail. Therefore, any potential significant parking impacts would be analyzed and mitigated to the extent feasible as part of the environmental review of the proposed discretionary development.

- g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated

☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** The project does not propose any hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists. Any required improvements will be constructed to maintain existing conditions as it relates to pedestrians and bicyclists.

The project would not result in a potentially significant hazard or barrier for pedestrians or bicyclists because the project does not include the development of any specific trails. Furthermore, the future development of trails would not include hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists. To the contrary, the purpose of the project is to develop a trail system for pedestrians and for mountain bicyclists. Trails must be constructed and improved to certain design standards to the satisfaction of the County of San Diego, Director of Public Works. The Guidelines include the following safety requirement:

**Design Criteria:**

T-1 Trails should intersect roads at approximately ninety (90) degree angles.

T-2 Where trails cross roads, they should do so at approximately ninety (90) degree angles and crossing/warning signage posted in both vehicular directions. If deemed necessary, the paved roadway surfaces shall be marked with a painted crosswalk and/or flashing warning lights.

In addition, the project will not conflict with the County Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) because the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) will coordinate implementation of both the BTP and CTP.

**XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS** -- Would the project:

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not involve any uses that will discharge any wastewater to sanitary sewer or on-site wastewater systems (septic). Therefore, the project will not exceed any wastewater treatment requirements.

- b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not include new or expanded water or wastewater treatment facilities. In addition, the project does not require the construction or expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, the project will not require any construction of new or expanded facilities, which could cause significant environmental effects.

- c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The project does not include new or expanded storm water drainage facilities. Therefore, the project will not require any construction of new or expanded facilities, which could cause significant environmental effects.



- d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project does not involve or require water services from a water district. The proposed project has no direct potential significant adverse effect on water supply because the project includes no development of any specific trails. Future proposed staging areas could be in areas served by imported water or groundwater. Typical water amenities associated trails may include restrooms, drinking fountains and landscaping, most of which are located in proposed staging areas. The CTP puts a priority on locating staging areas at existing facilities such as schools, public parks and community centers; areas that are currently supplied by imported or groundwater sources. In the instance where a new staging area is proposed, typical water amenities would be drinking fountains, restrooms and possibly landscaping. Because these amenities use relatively small amounts of water, they will not have a significant impact on the local imported water system.

- e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Impact         |

Discussion/Explanation:

**No Impact:** The proposed project for a countywide trail program and will not produce any wastewater; therefore, the project will not interfere with any wastewater treatment providers service capacity.

- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less Than Significant Impact:** Implementation of the project will generate minimal solid waste associated with trash collection on trails and at staging areas. All solid waste facilities, including landfills require solid waste facility permits to operate. In San Diego County, the County Department of Environmental Health, Local Enforcement Agency issues solid waste facility permits with concurrence from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) under the authority of the Public Resources Code (Sections 44001-44018) and California Code of Regulations Title 27, Division 2, Subdivision 1, Chapter 4 (Section 21440et seq.). There are five, permitted active landfills in San Diego County with remaining capacity. Therefore, there is sufficient existing permitted solid waste capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.

- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** Implementation of the project will generate solid waste. All solid waste facilities, including landfills require solid waste facility permits to operate. In San Diego County, the County Department of Environmental Health, Local Enforcement Agency issues solid waste facility permits with concurrence from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) under the authority of the Public Resources Code (Sections 44001-44018) and California Code of Regulations Title 27, Division 2, Subdivision 1, Chapter 4 (Section 21440et seq.). The project will deposit all solid waste at a permitted solid waste facility and therefore, will comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

**XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

- a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated:** Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in Sections IV and V of this form. This evaluation considered the implementation of the project's potential for cumulative effects. Resources that have been evaluated as significant would be potentially impacted by the project, particularly Biological Resources and Cultural Resources. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these effects to a level below significance. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, significant effects associated with this project would result. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                    |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated:** Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse cumulative effects were considered in the response to each question in Sections I through XVI of this form. This evaluation considered the implementation of the projects potential for incremental effects that are cumulatively considerable. As a result of this evaluation, there were determined to be potentially significant cumulative effects related to Biological Resources and Cultural Resources. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these cumulative effects to a level below significance. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, there are cumulative effects associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

- c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Impact                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than Significant Impact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | <input type="checkbox"/> No Impact                               |

Discussion/Explanation:

**Less than Significant Impact:** In the evaluation of environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse direct or indirect impacts to human beings were considered in the response to certain questions in sections I. Aesthetics, III. Air Quality, VI. Geology and Soils, VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials, VIII Hydrology and Water Quality XI. Noise, XII. Population and Housing, and XV. Transportation and Traffic. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that there are adverse effects on human beings associated with this project. Therefore, this project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

## **XVIII. REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST**

All references to Federal, State and local regulation are available on the Internet. For Federal regulation refer to <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>. For State regulation refer to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov). For County regulation refer to [www.amlegal.com](http://www.amlegal.com). All other references are available upon request.

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